

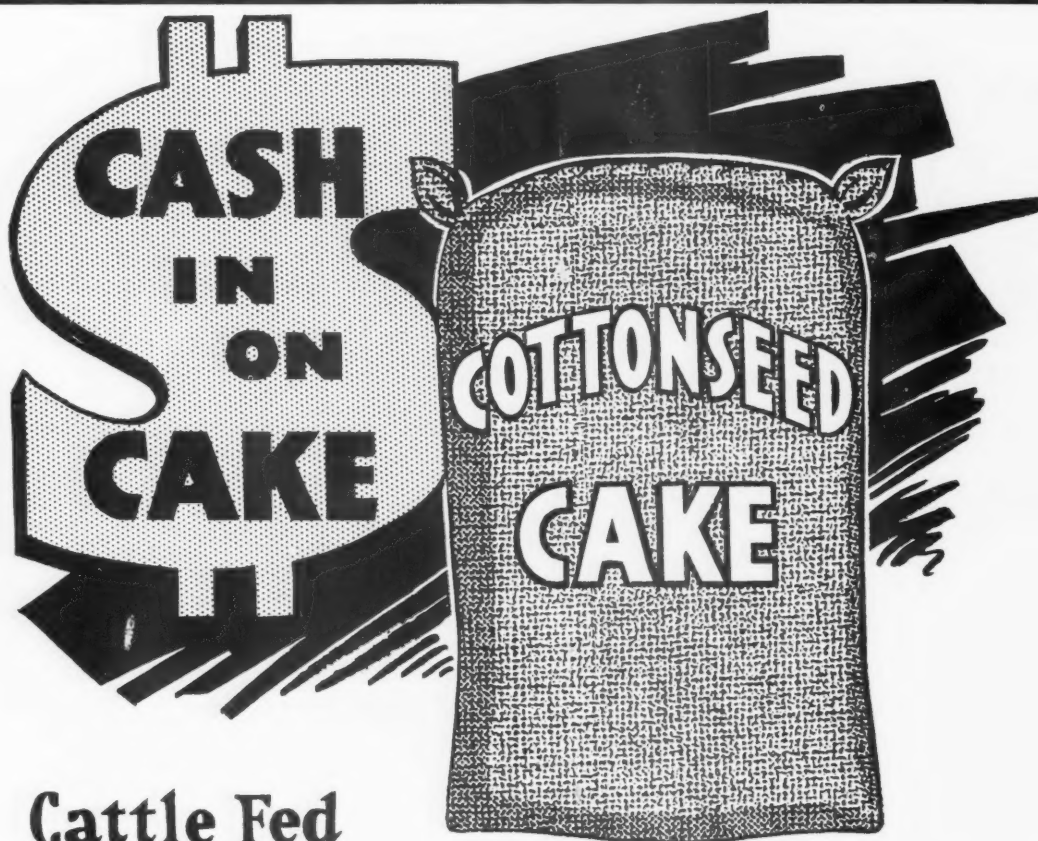
AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

JANUARY, 1939



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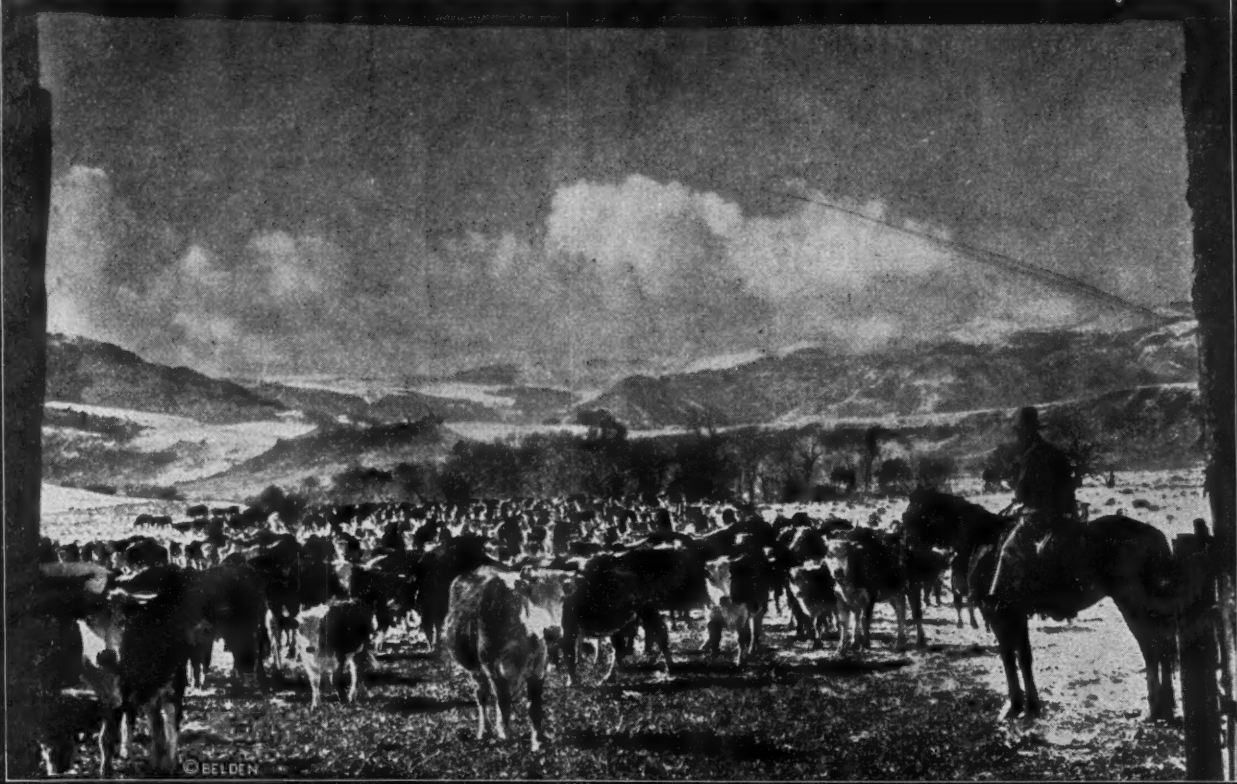
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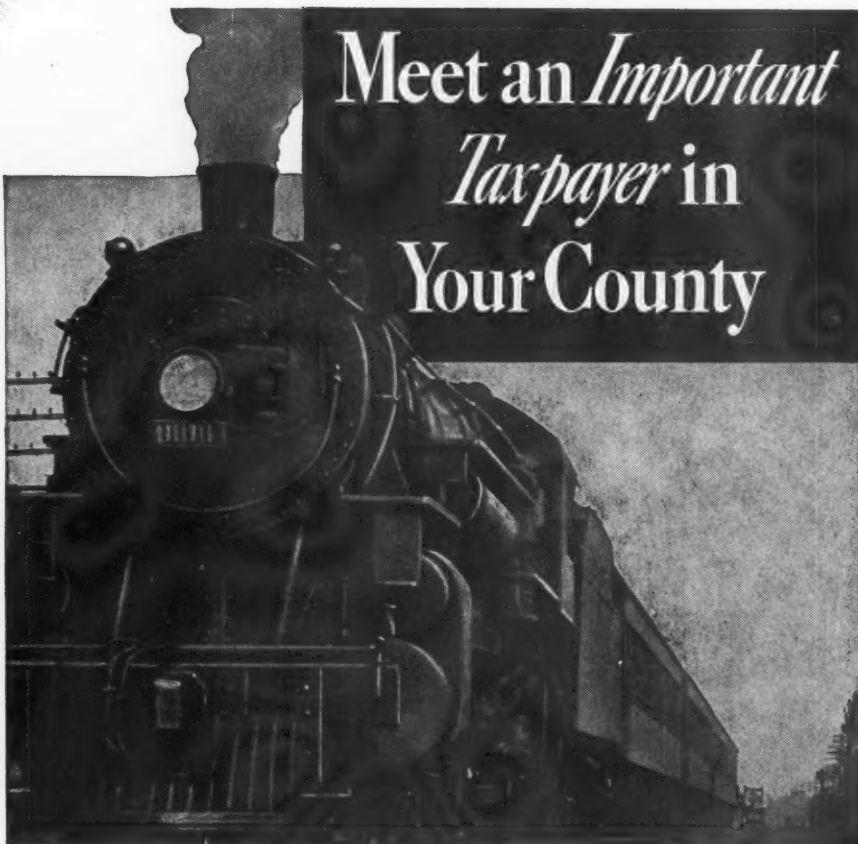
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LETTERS

GOOD GRASS

Stockmen in this part of the country have had a very good grass year. Everyone raised plenty of hay. Stock came in in good condition.—ORRIN C. MILLS, Paulina, Ore.

FEW CATTLE

Conditions generally are very good throughout this section. Have an abundance of feed and grass is very good. Not many cattle in the country.—JERRY B. MINTER, Dalhart, Tex.

MORE HOGS

Cheaper and more abundant feed along the Texas coast country is encouraging some feeding of cattle and hogs. The day of the heavy steer is past. Only calves and occasional yearlings are offered for sale. Northern buyers will take all the steer calves we have to offer. In view of the fact that we buy outside this state a lot of hog products, it looks as though it would be good business to raise and feed more hogs rather than to increase our cattle.—ROY JACKSON, Sinton, Tex.

LIKE SPRING

There have been quite a few storms in this area the past month and a half. From November 1 we had real cold weather part of the time, but during December the weather has been like spring. Grass in the meadows has started. The cattle are all in now, but we have not started to feed them yet.—HOWARD MORSE, North Fork, Nev.

ERROR

Two errors appeared in the Montana experiment station cattle fattening tables reproduced on page 3 of the December PRODUCER. The mistakes are in the "Daily Ration" lines of two of the tables. Corn in Table IV should have been 0.588 pounds, not 588. Bean straw in Table V should have been 15 pounds, not 1,500. They are our own errors, not the authors'. One of our readers has been made to wonder "whether Paul Bunyan's ox has been straying around somewhere in Montana."

NO FEEDING

Stock of all kinds came in from the higher ranges this year in exceptionally good condition. No feeding to speak of as yet. The valley is free from snow, however. There is plenty of hay and grain for all stock, with a surplus in sight.—CYRUS WILLIAMS, Union, Ore.

I am ordering a subscription as a Christmas gift. Like your paper enough that I want other stockmen to read it.—H. C. APPEL, Steamboat Springs, Colo.

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Number 8

OUR IMPORTANT MEAT PRODUCING COUNTRIES

BY J. B. CRAMSIE

Sydney, Australia

AS ORIGINATOR AND CHAIRMAN of the Australian Meat Council until I left to make investigations into methods and cost of stock production in South America, and having spent some forty years as a stock producer and meat works operator in Australia, I have naturally been interested in methods and costs of stock production, transport, treatment and marketing of meat, especially in those countries competing with Australia in the markets of Great Britain. I have investigated not only the costs and methods of production of the various meat-producing countries but the potentialities of expansion in such countries as New Zealand, Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, United States, and Canada.

New Zealand Mutton Best

After making several visits to New Zealand, I am satisfied there is no country better able to provide good-quality lamb and mutton than this dominion. In my opinion, New Zealand is the most successful closer settler area within the British Empire, the operations of the great majority of her settlers being most profitable, and the quality of her mutton and lamb carcasses is the highest of any reaching Smithfield. The New Zealand farmers are a fine type of people, excellent workers, and it is due to

their magnificent work, improved pastures, and careful selection of stock that they have raised their export of meat to such a high standard.

Leaving New Zealand some years ago, I traveled via Cape Horn to Montevideo, capital of Uruguay, and immediately crossed to the Argentine, and spent some months in that country investigating methods and cost of production of stock and treatment prior to shipment of carcasses to the markets of Great Britain. The Argentine producers must be given credit for the establishment of huge areas of alfalfa, which is the base of their great success in securing early maturity and the excellent and continuous fattening of their high-quality stock.

Apart from the fact that they provide sufficient artificial grasses and pastures to enable their stock to be quickly grown and excellently fattened, their herds of commercial cows are the finest I have seen in any of the meat-producing countries. Further, they are particularly careful in the selection of their herd sires. The average value of these would be twice that of the average herd sire used in the more closely settled parts of Australia and at least three times the value of those used in our wider areas.

From the time the calf is dropped



New Zealand "Homestead"

until ready to be offered to the frigorificos as chiller steers it knows no shortage of milk or pasture, and being bred from pure beef stock on both sides insures its early maturity and proper presentation. The railway facilities for transport for fat stock are available within a few miles of the various *estancias*, and the facilities provided by the various railway companies, as a result of keen competition, both as regards stock wagons and speed of transport, are excellent.

Again, *frigorificos* or their treatment plants are of a very high standard, and having been much more recently constructed, are generally ahead of the works operating in Chicago. Another excellent feature is the situation of these plants alongside the docks, enabling chilled and frozen meat to be transported from the works' refrigeration stores to the ship's hold under cover within a few minutes, thus preventing variation of temperature so objectionable in the handling of these meat products.

Argentine producers favor Shorthorn cattle, which are in the great majority. Still, there are some very fine Hereford and Polled Angus herds, some of the finest troops of chiller steers I inspected being of the latter.



Magnificent Herd of Black Poll Cows—Sanfoin Estancia, Buchardo, Argentina

January, 1939



An Argentine Branding Corral

After spending a considerable time in the Argentine, mostly inspecting stock on *estancias* in the principal stock-producing districts, I crossed to Uruguay and put in a considerable time motoring through that republic, visiting numerous *estancias* and inspecting both their studs and herds of cattle. In Uruguay I found reliance placed to a very large extent on natural and improved pastures for successful growing and fattening of cattle, the latter principally of English grasses. While there were in parts reasonable areas of alfalfa, it was not in general use as in the Argentine.

Herefords Predominate in Uruguay

Although only divided by a river from the Argentine, the contour of the land is entirely different. In the Argentine from Buenos Aires stretching in any direction the land is practically flat for hundreds of miles, whereas in Uruguay the land is undulating and of a totally different character. Here I found the Hereford cattle predominating, followed by the Shorthorn and Aberdeen-Angus.

As the result of the absence of alfalfa, I consider the growth and fattening of cattle in Uruguay to be quite six months later than in the Argentine, and generally I do not consider the quality of the cattle, though good, to be compared with those of the former country. In both these republics I was surprised to see the magnificent studs of cattle which have been built up, the leading sires of many of these studs having been grand champions, reserve champions, and successful exhibits at leading shows in Great Britain. The female portion of the studs was particularly well selected.

The purchase of the best blood in Great Britain has enabled both these countries to establish fine herds, and they are excellently catered to by the railway companies and provided with magnificent treatment facilities by the various *frigorificos* operating in those countries.

I was satisfied that both the Argentine and Uruguay could hardly improve the quality of their stock, and that their potentialities for further profitable expansion were very limited.

Room for Improvement in Brazil

I made investigations in southern Brazil and found that the quality of the cattle could not compare with that of either of the two republics aforementioned. While I am of opinion that there is likely to be a steady improvement in the quality of cattle, one did not find the same eagerness to provide the chiller type of steer which was so prominent in both Uruguay and the Argentine, and I came to the conclusion that with the absence of the very favorable conditions in the two former republics, together with the fact that the large number of producers I met were satisfied with the more inferior quality of their cattle, it would be many years before Brazil would be an important factor in connection with the world's meat supply.

In order carefully to study the transport of chilled beef, a major factor of importance in connection with the establishment of that trade, at the invitation of the Blue Star Shipping Company I crossed the Atlantic in one of their fine chilled meat steamers, and carefully studied their methods, which I must say were most efficient and secured magnifi-

cent results. The whole of the cargo of thousands of tons, so carefully watched by the engineers, who logged every two hours temperature records in each hold, was delivered in London after twenty-four days in magnificent order and condition. Some 100 motor wagons met the ship on arrival, and within a few hours these were traveling from the docks to centers within 100 miles radius of London, distributing chilled meat into various markets and retail centers. The ship was used as a store, the cargo being discharged at the rate of several hundred tons each day and delivered direct to the centers requiring it, thus minimizing handling and making for maximum economy.

England Home of Stud Stock

While in Great Britain I took advantage, naturally, to visit many of the stock shows and inspected a large number of the studs. I must give Great Britain credit for being the home of the production of stud stock. While leading breeders of every country draw upon Great Britain for stud cattle to enable them to keep up the standard of their production by an infusion of new blood, Great Britain is not in a position to draw upon any other country for that purpose. For that reason their stud masters must be acclaimed the greatest in the world. It is their remarkable work of selection and fine breeding which enables them to carry on and keep improving their stud without any infusion of imported blood from other sources to assist them.

While one is very pleased with the class of stud cattle in Great Britain, one cannot fail to recognize the large number of mixed bred inferior cattle that one sees in the pastures throughout Great Britain, and I attribute this to the increase of dairying.

I do not think it would ever be possible for Great Britain to provide more than 50 or 60 per cent of her own meat requirements from her own pastures, and while the population remains as it is she will have to continue to import very large quantities of meat products to assist in supplying her own consuming public's demands.

Canadian Output Limited

One country which has interested me particularly is Canada. I have visited that dominion on several occasions and had the opportunity of inspecting cattle there and discussing with principal producers the methods and costs of production and potentialities of expansion. I doubt very much whether, with their severe climatic conditions, they are in a position largely to increase their cattle production. I was very much impressed with the excellent production being carried out under particularly difficult conditions, more especially in their northern territory where long winters necessitate long periods of artificial feeding and sheltering for their stock.

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER



Types of Steers on Ranch in Western Canada

Generally the Canadian cattle are of a very excellent type—a very much better class of cattle, as far as breeding goes, than in Australia. Where they have the disadvantage is in their extreme cold. Our cattle grown in the tropics and semi-tropical areas have not only the advantage of the warmth of the sun but of natural fattening pastures, generally over the whole year.

I was interested in the careful attention being paid by the Canadians to their cattle and the excellent herds that they had established. The quality of the sire has done much to raise their cattle to their present high standard.

I have always been surprised that Canada has not exported more of her cattle in the carcass under chilled conditions rather than on the hoof alive to the markets of Great Britain. It should prove a success economically, as they should be able to land their beef in very much better condition than is provided by animals which have been ten days on board a steamer and are slaughtered immediately they have been rested.

Turning toward the United States, which I have visited on four different occasions, I cannot but express my admiration for the wonderful work her producers are doing in providing the meat ration for her 130,000,000 people off her own territory with some little assistance from Canada. We in Australia off a similar area produce only the meat requirements for our population of under 7,000,000 and export sufficient to provide the requirements of less than a further 3,000,000.

United States Tops in Palatability

I was keenly interested in investigating artificial fattening of stock in the United States, principally in the Corn Belt areas. This work entails an immense amount of hard work and would never become popular in Australia. It would necessitate an increase of 50 per cent on present prices. I give the producers great credit for producing a magnificent class of beef and presenting the fattened carcass to the consuming

public in a condition which I believe superior to any other country in the world, no doubt due to the artificial feeding which enables the meat to be delivered to the markets in the most excellent condition with a maximum of palatability.

I have read many reports of discussions and conferences of beef producers which have taken place in the United States and have come to the conclusion that the requests from them should secure the most favorable consideration, as the producers are doing a most excellent work, unequalled in any other country in the world. As a cattle producer myself, knowing the conditions under which they work, they have my greatest fellow feeling, and I hope their great work will always be recognized by the government and consuming public of the United States.

Australia Could Double Production

Now let us turn to Australia and examine our methods of production and potentialities of expansion. The principal production of beef is carried out in the states of Queensland, and Western Australia, and our Northern Territory. These areas supply the whole of Australia's exportable surplus of beef and assist the other states in supplying their

local domestic requirements, and, by proper improvements of her available areas, Australia could easily double her present numbers of cattle.

In Queensland, where the majority of beef cattle are produced, the herds are of better quality than in either the Northern Territory or Western Australia, but in none of these areas are the cattle assisted in their growth or fattening by artificial fodders or pastures of any kind.

We have in Australia 1,000,000 square miles of country within the tropical zone, and it is in this area where the largest volume of our cattle are bred. Generally the Queensland cattle are of fair quality, most of Queensland area having been under development and improvement for the past seventy-five years. Besides being naturally watered, most of the properties have artificial water in the shape of bores, tanks, and dams and are fenced and subdivided into large paddocks generally about 100 square miles in each.

Lack of Fencing

In West Australia and the Northern Territory the method of production is rather crude, with few exceptions, the producers endeavoring to produce good quality beef cattle under impossible conditions. In the majority of cases, the properties, which are held under leasehold tenure, are each of an area of 1,000 to 5,000 square miles, and on each of these there is practically no fencing, the heifers not being removed from the general herd in which the bulls remain continuously. Consequently heifers breed at least twelve months earlier than would be the case if the fencing was available to keep them away from the bulls. As a result, the female portion of the herd are only of medium quality and the herd bulls in general use are of a very inferior type, many being selected calves from each annual drop of the herd.

Notwithstanding the absence of improvements and the inferior quality of the herds, the natural pastures are usually so plentiful and of good quality that it has been possible to ship quite a con-



Beef Cattle in Typical Australian Grazing Country

siderable percentage of the carcasses as chilled beef and deliver in reasonably attractive condition to the markets of Great Britain. One can easily understand the improved quality of cattle that could be bred on such areas if these ranches were well improved and a superior class of herd bull were used, which in two or three generations would raise the standard of the female herd and enable the majority of steers produced to be exported in a chilled condition.

Transportation a Problem

Apart from being deficient in quality, most of these herds are situated long distances from rail, and the stock have to be roaded 200 to 400 miles before reaching the rail head. While these roads as a rule have ample pastures, the watering places for stock are long distances apart, and this militates against the delivery of these cattle at the treatment plants in the best condition.

Besides the economic waste of flesh occasioned by such road travel, it is also detrimental to the color of the carcass and the palatability of the meat, placing it on a lower range of value in the overseas markets than it would realize if these cattle were fattened within reasonable distance of the treatment plants and railed and delivered, say, within one week from the pastures instead of occupying from four to eight weeks.

With regard to our treatment plants. We have numerous works situated on our coast, all of which are both efficient and economical in their operation, providing facilities equal to the general run of works in any of the meat producing countries.

Steamer Fleet Magnificent

As regards ocean transport, we have a most magnificent fleet of refrigerated steamers capable of delivering both our chilled and frozen beef to the world's markets in an attractive condition, notwithstanding the fact that we are situated so far distant from these markets. By scientific investigation we have been able partially to overcome our early troubles with regard to mold and color in transporting our chilled beef; but if Australia is to establish her chilled meat industry on a sound footing, arrangements will have to be made, firstly, to create the necessary water and fencing improvements on these large properties on which our cattle for export are raised, secondly, by the use of a much better type of herd bull, and, thirdly, either by providing direct railway facilities closer to the centers of production, or removing our young cattle and fattening them adjacent to the meat treatment plants.

If this is done there is every reason to believe that Australia can produce good-quality cattle in greater increased volume more economically than any other country in the world.

THE CATTLEMAN'S VIEW OF BANG'S CONTROL *

BY J. ELMER BROCK

IT WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE FUTILITY for a layman to attempt to discuss the technical nature of Bang's disease before this body of scientific men. I shall therefore confine my remarks to the existing and proposed methods of eradicating this malady in cattle as they affect the range cattleman, whose cattle are almost entirely of the beef breeds.

The transmissibility of this disease was recognized in Europe a half century ago. Professor Bang, the Danish investigator, isolated the germ more than forty years ago. In the meantime the cattle industry has gone along and prospered in spite of this disease. In fact, while stockmen would welcome some curative or immunization property, the present method of eradicating the disease by destroying the cattle is far more harmful to the beef industry than the normal prevalence of Bang's disease.

Our purpose here is twofold. First, in so far as beef cattle are concerned, we urge that available funds be used to find a more practical method of eradicating Bang's disease and that experiments be applied to test herds rather than to the beef cattle industry as a whole.

Second, we vigorously oppose the efforts on the part of Bureau of Animal Industry fieldmen and certain state officials to set up area work in the range country. The official attitude of the bureau itself is most commendable and is expressed clearly in a letter of June 29, 1938, from Dr. John R. Mohler, chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry:

"... There is enclosed herewith a copy of the most recent report on the Bang's disease work, which is accumulated from the time it was taken up in a co-operative manner in July, 1934. In this connection I can only reiterate what I have already told you in person as well as in my letter of June 21, 1937; viz., that there has been no change in the policy of this bureau regarding the compulsory feature of Bang's disease work, and so far as I am concerned it will be conducted on a voluntary basis for a considerable time to come."

We heartily concur in this policy.

Despite this assurance it is evident to anyone who has followed the Bang's disease program carefully that the commencement of area work in many states is now being pushed and that this inevitably leads to a compulsory program. The quarantine barriers necessary to accompany area work would in themselves be a serious blow to the cattle industry. According to a letter from

*Address given at convention of United States Live Stock Sanitary Association, held in Chicago November 30-December 2.

the acting chief of the bureau, dated September 17, 1938:

"This bureau is co-operating in the conduct of Bang's disease work under the area plan with the state live-stock sanitary authorities in about twenty-two states, but this activity is being carried on under the authority of the states concerned."

Compulsory methods are already being invoked in various ways. In Nevada the stockmen running cattle on certain Indian reservations were obliged to test all cattle for Bang's disease. This is supposed to be because the Indians themselves voted to impose this requirement, but is anyone so naive as to believe that some fieldmen did not inspire the Indians to take the action specified. In Oregon, where Bureau of Animal Industry men have been very active, at a recent meeting of Oregon veterinarians, we learn:

"It was reported that an order from United States forestry officials requiring Bang's testing to qualify for United States grazing allotment would help greatly."

A further instance of this nature occurred in a western state last June, when the Bureau of Animal Industry agent publicly announced a four-county area drive to stamp out the disease, although the state veterinarian in that state has been entirely in accord with the policy expressed by Dr. Mohler that the work should be conducted on a voluntary basis. It is already well established in several states that area work leads to compulsion.

Started as Reduction Program

During the drought of 1934 the federal government started a cattle purchase program that spread to the drought areas of twenty-three states. While this program was in progress and in order that dairymen could dispose of surplus animals outside the drought area at more than their actual value as canners or cutters, arrangements were made to start the emergency Bang's disease program out of funds provided under the Jones-Connally Act. The program was sponsored by the dairy people as a substitute for a program under consideration by the AAA which suggested removing from the herds of the dairymen, strictly as a cattle reduction measure and in order to control milk production, the two- and three-year-old heifers which were within six weeks of calving. The dairymen wisely took the position that it would be better first to remove from the herds the diseased animals. Since that time, with emergency funds of one kind

and another available in almost unlimited quantities, the bureau has expanded the program more rapidly, we believe, than practical considerations would warrant.

This clearly indicates that the present Bang's program was started as an economic program to reduce dairy cattle numbers rather than as a sanitary measure. I speak with definite knowledge in saying that the Bang's disease program was but one of four methods urged in 1934 by federal authority to reduce the cattle population of the United States. The others were restriction of credits by the Farm Credit Administration, cuts in forest grazing permits, and reduction of numbers in newly created grazing districts on the public domain. That the Bang's program did little more than reduce cattle numbers is evidenced by numerous cases which have come to our attention.

I quote you from some of them:

Cases Show Impracticability

"Dairy Herd.—Variable number running from slightly less than 100 up to approximately 150 head. Twenty-two tests were made in a period of three and a half years, and although there were only one reactor and two suspects in the first test, there has been only one test out of the twenty-two in which there did not show up some reactors or suspects, there being at different times as many as eleven reactors and twenty-five suspects. In July, 1938, there were one reactor and twenty-five suspects; three months later, no reactors and three suspects; one month later, no reactors and two suspects. A total of forty-four reactors was taken out of the herd in three and a half years. Still under the government plan and still not cleared up, despite twenty-two tests.

"Prior to the July test referred to above, twenty-five mares on the place were tested for Bang's disease, results showing four reactors, twelve suspects, and nine negatives. Since the date on which they were tested, horses have not been used in the cattle barns or allowed to go in the cattle pastures, and since that time it is noted that there has been a decrease in the number of reactors and suspects in the dairy herd."

"Range Cattle.—Unit starting with 205 head and maintained to approximately that number by replacements. Six tests were made in little less than a three-year period under supervision of a state agricultural college in its experimental work on Bang's disease control. One hundred and ten cattle were taken out in the six tests. There were twenty abortions before the last test was made and forty-six reactors in the last test. The college then discontinued the work.

"The owner continued the program under government supervision and made six further tests during which fifty-six reactors were found, there being two reactors in the last of the total of twelve tests. Owner then discontinued the test for the reason that he could not continually run his cattle through the chutes. Doubtless the cattle were tired of the

chutes also. Herd still not clean despite twelve tests."

"Dairy Herd.—First test started with 192 cattle, at which time there were thirty-nine reactors and eleven suspects. Seventeen tests have been made in a period of approximately four years, and in only six tests have there been no reactors, while in only one test have there been no suspects. The next to the last test in the summer of 1938 showed two reactors and twelve suspects; the last test three months later showed no reactors and three suspects. Total number of reactors taken out in a four-year period, sixty-eight, but herd has been kept up to practically uniform size by replacements. Still under the program."

Doubtless the chaotic conditions that are portrayed above and in many similar cases of record are partly due to the different results that seem to be obtained from the same sample at different laboratories. This may be partially due to the variation in the antigen used as the agglutination agent. It may be due to variation in state regulations. At any rate, it seems certain, as referred to above, that frequently one laboratory will pass an animal as clear while another laboratory, perhaps in a different state, tags it as a reactor.

Not Workable on Range

Obviously no fair-minded man, after a study of such cases reported by men who have co-operated in the Bang's program, could conscientiously suggest either a compulsory program or area work in our territory.

It might be recalled that when the tuberculosis program was under way a modification was made in the case of range cattle assuming that a fair cut of 10 per cent of any breeding herd should give an indication of whether or not there was any infection in the herd. Such a method would not meet the requirements in this case, and there can be no doubt that the expense and shrinkage involved in gathering and holding representative herds in the range country, to say nothing of the large herds, would far outweigh any possible benefits which might accrue either to the owner

thereof or as a matter of public interest, especially when in many instances there is absolutely no ground to suppose that any infection exists in such herds. When you consider the number of retests necessary in some instances, as previously shown, it simply is not practical, and the situation does not warrant that such stern measures should be applied. Just take for example the first case referred to above. Despite the cold fact that twenty-two tests have been applied, the record is not entirely clear yet. Think of applying such a method to a herd of several thousand cows ranging in the rough country! Just how would you go about it?

My own experience is limited to observation of neighbors who have co-operated. In no case have I witnessed lasting beneficial results. An adjoining neighbor, whose cattle have mingled with my own much of the time, has co-operated for two years. He has removed many of his productive cows as a result of positive tests to the point where this year his calf crop was very small. This neighbor used my corrals in making his tests, and I now find some of my own cows, which were tested with his by mistake, tagged and branded as positive reactors. Yet, my 1938 calf crop was the best I remember in thirty years. A state-owned herd of registered cattle in Wyoming, from which I have bought many bulls, was tested and found to be very badly infected. The herd was nearly ruined through removal of infected animals. The work was finally discontinued without cleaning up the herd.

That many abortions in infected or untested herds are due to other causes than Bang's disease is an accepted fact. I know that if I leave my cows in a certain pasture after a certain date many will abort. I also know that when removed to another pasture and different water they cease to abort. This may be due to the type of forage, or lack of minerals, at that stage of the gestation period; but in any event, I have learned from sad experience not to leave my cows in that pasture after January 15. Similar facts no doubt account for exaggerated losses attributed to Bang's disease.

Task Complicated

The magnitude of the job which would need to be done if the program is pressed in the range country is shown by the following information based on a release by the Department of Agriculture of June 7, 1938:

"Percentages of breeding cattle in the western states under official supervision in the Bang's disease project on May 1, 1938, are: Oregon, 75.5; Washington, 70.7; Utah, 48.1; Idaho, 29.9; North Dakota, 20.3; Montana, 19.4; Nevada, 18.9; Oklahoma, 16.9; New Mexico, 10.1; Wyoming, 10; Arizona, 4.6; Kansas, 4.4; Nebraska, 3.3; South Da-



kota, 2.2; Texas, 1.6; Colorado, .8; California, .04."

The total number of herds under supervision on June 30, 1938, in the United States was 1,035,454, containing 9,447,137 head of she-cattle and bulls under Bang's tests. The total number of all cattle reported on January 1, 1938, was 65,930,000, so approximately 14.3 per cent of all the cattle were under Bang's supervision, while in the seventeen western states, as shown above, approximately 9.04 per cent were so included, largely in the northwest group of dairy states.

The surface has little more than been scratched in many of the states. One important fact that is commonly overlooked when considering eradicating Bang's disease in bovine herds is that there are various other sources of infection, so that even though it were possible completely to eradicate the disease in any given area—and the record is not too convincing on this point to date—there would still remain the danger of reinfection from sources about which very little if anything is being done at the present time. In corroboration of this statement, the following is taken from a booklet on calfhood vaccination by Dr. H. E. Curry, state veterinarian of Missouri:

"Another weakness of this plan that cannot be overlooked is the fact that other animals on the farm, aside from cattle, are capable of harboring and spreading the infection of Bang's disease. For example, horses, hogs, poultry, and dogs may carry the infection, and any program that fails to take cognizance of these facts and attempts to eradicate Bang's disease by the blood testing and slaughter method is destined to failure."

In December, 1935, and January, 1936, 500 surplus elk from the herd in the Jackson Hole country of Wyoming were slaughtered and sold to a concern in Minnesota. The people receiving the elk would not accept them without meat inspection. Therefore, an official of the Live Stock and Sanitary Board of the State of Wyoming was called upon to administer this service. One hundred and forty-nine blood samples were collected and submitted to the bacteriological laboratory at the University of Wyoming with the request that they be tested for infectious abortion. Twenty-nine of these samples were positive and fifteen of the samples were suspicious to the agglutination test.

Clean Herd Susceptible

Under natural conditions animals in many herds have acquired a considerable degree of resistance to the disease. When all known reactors are removed, this immunity is lost, and although the herd is supposedly 100 per cent clean, it is likewise 100 per cent susceptible and the risks incident to breaks are very much increased.

It is quite obvious even to a layman

that much more should be known and some more workable method perfected before the compulsory eradication of Bang's disease is made to apply to the live-stock industry. Present methods require innumerable and frequent tests to a point where compliance is impossible with cattle handled under range or semi-range conditions. It is gratifying to note increased experimentation and satisfactory results obtained from calf-hood vaccination.

Again quoting Dr. H. E. Curry:

"Calfhood Vaccination.—This plan promises to be the most feasible and economical procedure in the control of Bang's disease. Vaccination as a means of controlling Bang's disease has been successfully employed by members of the veterinary profession in field operations for some time, and many breeders realize and appreciate the value of veterinary service in connection with a plan of this sort. Much experimental work is being carried on at the present time, in order conclusively to prove that, with the use of a specially prepared vaccine, calves between the ages of four months and eight months may be successfully immunized against the infection of Bang's disease and that it will be possible for the average farmer and dairyman to raise, under this method, a herd that is immune to the disease, that will resist infection from animals that may be brought into the herd, or infection which they may come in contact with from adjoining farms.

"The vaccination plan is a constructive measure. It may require a little more time to establish a clean herd this way, but the breeder is not forced to dispose of his producing cows or wipe out certain blood lines by consigning cattle to slaughter that react to the test; therefore, it is possible for the breeder to carry on his operations and gradually build and maintain a herd of cattle that will be free from the ravages of Bang's disease. For that reason, the experimental work now in progress should be encouraged and supported by the live-stock industry as a means of protecting that industry from one of the greatest economic problems, from a disease standpoint, that confronts it today."

Favorable Results

A practical experience in vaccination is reported by Dr. R. M. Gow, state veterinarian of Colorado, in an article published October 25, 1938, in *Western Live Stock*, as follows:

"A North Park, Colorado, breeder reports that he vaccinated 136 heifer yearlings in April and turned them in the forest reserve. On July 1 the bulls were turned into the herd. When the agglutination test was given several months later, 50 per cent of the heifers reacted, although they all calved satisfactorily in April and May.

"These heifers were running with older cattle, part of them infected with Bang's disease, making a total of 201 head. Out of this bunch, 190 calves were branded in the fall of the year. The 136 heifers have now calved for the second time."

These are but a few of the records available, all showing favorable results from calf vaccination. It is high time that more attention be given this very important phase of the problem.

One of the crying needs for the benefit of the live-stock industry as a whole—and this applies to the beef cattle industry as well as to the breeders of purebred beef and dairy stock—is sensible regulations covering the interstate movement of such stock. A chaotic condition has been created by the growing roster of state rules and regulations until it has reached a point where a shipment can hardly be made except for immediate slaughter without ascertaining the last-minute rules and regulations of the state to which the shipment is destined. There have been times that it would appear almost as though some of the restrictions were in the nature of actual tariff barriers prohibiting the entry of live stock from one state because of the competition it would create with live stock produced within another state. There have been other instances where burdensome sanitary restrictions have been placed even though it is well known that the disease at issue is just as prevalent, if not more so, in the state which issues the restrictions as it is in many of the surrounding states. For instance, one eastern state refuses to admit cattle even from accredited Bang's disease herds unless they have been tested within thirty days—a practical admission of the unreliability of the test.

National Problem

After all, should we not get back to the basis of handling the protection of the live-stock industry against disease largely as a national problem, leaving the Bureau of Animal Industry, with the aid of the state sanitary authorities, to cope with all diseases important enough or wide-spread enough to justify national action? That was one of the major purposes, if not the major purpose, for which the Bureau of Animal Industry was created. In a book written by Dr. Hauck in 1924, setting forth the history of the Bureau of Animal Industry at the completion of forty years of service, this sentence appears in the opening paragraph of the introduction written by Dr. Mohler:

"The first work was almost entirely that of controlling and eradicating animal diseases."

Such an argument may seem inconsistent because of our complaint of the activities of the Bureau of Animal Industry fieldmen; yet that is a situation which can be corrected, and the issue is a broad one which demands national attention.

One thing is definite: If state and federal appropriations for Bang's disease control are to continue unopposed, there should be full knowledge of the existing situation, the results obtained,

and a limitation of activity along sound and practical lines.

After all, these are our range herds, which are our livelihood, and naturally we place the economic results as paramount.

In conclusion I would say:

1. It is apparent that Bang's disease causes the greatest damage in herds such as dairy herds and some purebred herds which are more or less closely confined to limited quarters.

2. The present testing program was originated to meet that situation.

3. Natural conditions in the range or semi-range country and the method of eliminating barren cows are not conducive to the maintenance of the disease.

4. Therefore, the present program, originally designed to meet a different condition, is largely inapplicable and impractical in range and semi-range country.

5. The economic burden of depleting herds and of sacrificing animals which are best producers and of best blood lines is entirely unjustified.

6. In view of the fact that the present agglutination test has been in use for over a quarter of a century and still shows very erratic results, it seems only sensible to urge greater concentration on the development and use of vaccine in building up herds resistant to the disease.

7. Therefore, education as to the use of the vaccine and not prohibition against its use should be the order.

8. Little need be said about the matter from the standpoint of public health. The pasteurization of milk can be extended adequately to meet the situation. At any rate, it is not a problem as relating to beef.

9. In line with the policy suggested above, all area work or pressure for a compulsory program in the range country should be immediately discontinued. In place thereof, build up immunity as rapidly as possible through calf vaccination, which is proving more beneficial and far less expensive than the present slaughter method which is destroying thousands of valuable breeding animals.

THE STORY OF THE RISE OF THE SOY BEAN

BY LAMAR KISHLAR

THE SOY BEAN, NATIVE OF eastern Asia, is one of the oldest crops known to man, being extensively grown long before written history began—some say 25,000 years ago. First record of the plant seems to be in a Chinese book on materia medica, called "Pen Ts'ao Kong Mu," written by the Emperor Shen-nung in 2838 B. C.

Even the name is cloaked in mystery. To the early Chinese, one word, *shi*, meant the salted bean; another word *yu* designated a condiment. It was simple then to combine the two words into *shi-yu* and apply the term to the plant as well as to the raw bean.

The soy bean was long in finding the

western world. Introduced into France as early as 1740 and in England in 1790, it was not until 1804 that the first soy bean came to America, and then as a curiosity cultivated in botanical gardens. In the latter part of the nineteenth century its commercial importance began to be suspected.

A hundred years after the first bean reached America's shores, Dr. C. R. Ball, of the Department of Agriculture, in 1907 described twenty-three varieties of soy beans, which represented the only varieties then known in America.

The World War stimulated great interest in soy-bean oil. In 1918, 336,000,000 pounds of the oil were imported from the Orient.

By the time the World War ended, the Department of Agriculture had imported 629 varieties from the Orient—a mere beginning. In all, more than 7,000 seed samples have been collected from the Orient. Of these there are more than 2,000 distinct types which have maturities ranging all the way from seventy-five to more than 200 days. These types and varieties have been grown in numerous places. The unpromising varieties have been discarded, and at the present time more than 100 named varieties are widely grown or are being increased for greater distribution.

In about 1910 an oil mill on the Pacific coast first used soy beans for oil and meal in the United States, importing Manchurian beans. War-time shortage of fats and oils brought in quantities of soy-bean oil of poor quality from crude equipment, sometimes in kerosene cans improperly cleaned, and thus delayed general acceptance of soy-bean oil for edible purposes. Today more than 80 per cent of the oil is thus used.

Production of soy-bean oil from domestic seed was started in a small way in North Carolina in 1916. The first oil was produced in a cotton oil mill in the off season, using the regular cotton oil pressing equipment. In 1920 soy-bean

oil was produced in a small flaxseed crushing plant at Chicago Heights, Illinois, using both expeller and hydraulic equipment. When the information leaked out that a soy-bean oil mill was expecting to crush beans in Illinois, so much interest was stimulated that all the local beans were sold for seed and it was necessary to ship the first cars of beans from North Carolina from which the first tank of soy-bean oil was made.

In 1922 oil was made by a corn milling company in Decatur, Illinois. At first only one expeller was used; but two more were installed some time afterwards, and about 90,000 bushels of beans crushed the first year.

Products that can be made from soy beans are innumerable. In the first operation, crude soy-bean oil is removed from the soy-bean oil meal. By further processing, the oil can be made into salad oil, shortening, oleomargarine, and even lipstick. The oil is used also in the manufacture of paint, printing ink, linoleum, oil cloth, foundry cores, soap, and rubber substitutes. The lecithin, and similar materials, which are removed from the crude oil by a refining process, are said to be useful in fifty industries.

More than 95 per cent, possibly as much as 98 per cent in some years, of the soy-bean oil meal produced in the United States is used in feeds for live stock, pet stock, and poultry. The small remaining amount is used for other purposes—a wide variety of adhesives, used in the ply-wood industries, wall paper sizing, plastics, and flakes useful in brewing. Some of the edible varieties of soy beans have been canned experimentally very successfully.

Soy-bean oil meal has been widely used for fertilizer in Asiatic countries, where its high fertilizing value has been recognized for centuries. In the United States, soy-bean oil meal has been used for a number of years in increasing quantities as fertilizers for lawn and golf greens, as well as for all kinds of flowers and shrubs. This use is now receiving the attention of a number of experiment stations which report excellent but incomplete results.

Production figures for soy beans in the four leading states of Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, and Ohio are now large. In 1922 only 99,000 bushels of beans were crushed. As recently as 1928-29, the industry produced only 21,000 tons of soy-bean oil meal. Production of meal from the current crop may exceed 920,000 tons.

Thus, while this agricultural visitor has been slow in picking up American ways, he is now thoroughly Americanized. He is thriving on American soil, in American climate. He can now be grown nearly everywhere that corn or cotton can be grown. He is a good citizen because he leaves the soil richer wherever he grows.



OUR VARYING STATE SANITARY REGULATIONS

BY JOHN B. GAGE

Kansas City, Missouri

YOUR ASSOCIATION SINCE THE year 1925 has been in the forefront of the movement demanding greater uniformity in the state regulation affecting the shipment of live stock. You have pointed out to all state live-stock regulatory officials the desirability of "revoking obsolete and unnecessary import regulations in existence in particular states." It has been stated in your resolutions that "a far greater degree of uniformity than now exists in state regulation is desirable and is practical of achievement and in some measure necessary if the confidence of shippers of live stock in the good intent of such regulations is to be won or held." You have directed attention to the fact that the "promulgation of unwise, unnecessary, and undesirable laws and regulations hampering the interstate shipment of live stock is likely in the immediate future to cause the existence of even more chaotic conditions" than obtained at the time your resolutions were adopted. The reports of your committees have set out proposed uniform state regulations for control of diseases such as Bang's disease.

Chaos at Hand

I say to you now, as one who has a close and intimate contact with the live-stock industry, that, as a result of the failure of state live-stock regulatory authorities generally to adopt your recommendations, the chaotic condition which you forecast is at hand. Despite the respect live-stock breeders entertain for the great live-stock sanitation work so ably directed on behalf of the federal government under the Bureau of Animal Industry and co-operated in by state authorities in the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease, the control of Texas fever, tuberculosis, and other diseases of live-stock and poultry, the day is now at hand when, on account of lack of uniformity in state live-stock sanitary regulations affecting interstate movement and trade in live stock, live-stock breeders generally, as you forecast, are losing confidence in the integrity and practicability of state live-stock sanitary regulations which seek to control interstate shipment.

Stockmen, exposed to a great variety of conflicting sanitary regulations respecting shipment of live stock in interstate commerce as promulgated by various states, are rapidly passing from an attitude of watchful, trustful, wishful

waiting to one of demanding the abolition of such regulations and the substitution of complete federal control. The only alternative is the prompt establishment by voluntary action of the regulatory authorities of the several states as a condition of substantial uniformity as among the states.

Stockmen generally are believers in States' rights. They like to see matters of this kind controlled by authorities with whom they have contact close to home. It is only with reluctance that they would give up and surrender to federal authorities such power. Furthermore, I think most of them would join with me in the view that certain advantages exist in permitting different states and different areas of the country to constitute voluntarily within their own jurisdiction experimental laboratories, so to speak, within which different methods of control or eradication of live-stock disease suggested by men of research may be established. Frequently the individual laboratory experiment, suggestive of good results, does not work out practically in the field.

Test Before Use

If we permit a certain divergence in the regulations established by different states before these suggested methods of control are applied on a country-wide scale, they can be tested in practice before general application. Uniform control would tend to interfere with the accomplishment of this objective. But this experimentation must be in accord with sensible rules and regulations supported by general consensus backed by complete knowledge through previous laboratory test and experiment of the best methods which should be followed in the control and eradication of specific live-stock disease. It means the application of the same rule as to the interstate movement of live stock as the state sees fit to apply within its own borders to the intrastate movement of live stock, except as such rules may be modified by valid federal regulation. Only when a state is considered free from a disease prevalent elsewhere can justification exist for differentiation in interstate and intrastate regulations. It means rules that are practical of enforcement and actually enforced without discrimination as to all methods of live-stock transportation into the state. Most distinctly, it does not permit or allow or tolerate the proposition that one rule shall apply to intrastate sales and movements of live stock and another rule much more drastic be also established by state authority to be applied to animals imported to the state from without the state.

This is the condition that today obtains in a great many states where the requirements made as to the importation of live stock into the state are most burdensome. New York requires dairy and breeding animals imported within the state to come from herds where 95 per cent of the entire herd has passed a negative blood test within ninety days of date of shipment, and that each animal so imported has passed a negative retest within thirty days, or that the animals imported come from herds all members of which have within six months prior to the importation passed a negative blood test. Pennsylvania has a stringent but different regulation as to interstate shipment applicable to Bang's disease. Tennessee will not accept bull calves under six months of age unless blood tested. No other state appears to have this specific requirement. Georgia requires steers coming from modified accredited areas to be tested not alone for tuberculosis but also for Bang's disease before shipment into the state.

Varying Requirements

Many other states have requirements in regard to imported cattle not applied to the sale or movement within the state of native cattle and which are diverse from and distinctly in addition to the requirements made in the proposed regulations on importation of cattle suggested by your committee and approved by the association at your annual meeting in 1931.

The restrictions in Pennsylvania have been applied to female cattle brought to the state for feeding rather than breeding purposes. I can mention many, many other instances of divergencies in these regulations creating uncertainty, hardship, and considered to be unwise and unnecessary by the rank and file of the live-stock industry, when we take the country as a whole into consideration, that have sprung into existence within the last several years. We believe them to be unwise and unsound in the present state of our scientific knowledge concerning the control and eradication of Bang's disease.

Science Means Accuracy

Science is considered by eminent scientists synonymous with an approach to an exactitude in human knowledge of fact and of method and dependent for its advancement upon the ability to apply accurate tests and measures to natural phenomena. Exactitude of knowledge as to diagnosis, accurate tests to determine the existence of disease, definite and generally accepted information as to the method of transmission of disease are from a scientific standpoint essential to sound regulation for the control and eradication of disease. In other words, the information and tests and knowledge which back up regulations to control animal diseases must be truly scientific in character if they are to meet public acceptance and general approval.

Address delivered December 1 before United States Live Stock Sanitary Association meeting at Chicago under title, "The Desirability of Uniform State Sanitary Regulations Affecting Interstate Shipment of Live Stock."

It was this characteristic, this scientific aspect of the campaigns to control tuberculosis in cattle or Texas fever, that so greatly contributed to the eventual success. It is, in my judgment, the relative lack of this characteristic, this general acceptance upon a factual basis of such information as is now available concerning Bang's disease, its diagnosis, its method of transmission, and its control and eradication, that has rendered the campaign for its eradication more difficult and less likely to receive general co-operation from breeders of live stock.

This is also true with respect to regulations relating to other types of diseases of live stock and poultry. It is not my province in this talk to point out the situation with respect to Bang's disease, or any other disease, from the breeders' standpoint. This, I understand, has been done by other representatives of the live-stock industry. All in all, the experience of the breeder, I believe, justifies the statement that it is most unwise to hamper the interstate movement and flow of live stock by the application to interstate movement of requirements of an exceptional nature and character that are not made as to intrastate movement.

Most certainly, the accredited Bang's-disease-free herds established under the test and elimination method or by vaccination should be protected not only from contamination from other animals brought to the herd from within the state but from animals from without the state. Little or no objection could be made to the establishment generally of regulations such as this association has proposed and approved requiring blood test before shipment.

Tuberculosis Regulations Vary

Our knowledge concerning the methods of control and eradication successfully to be applied as to tuberculosis is scientific, accurate and well established. In regard to this disease it nevertheless appears that state restrictions over the interstate movement of live stock and the character of proof required in various states as to freedom from it are extremely variant. Certain states, like New York, Georgia, and Alabama, refuse to accept steers originating in accredited areas, as well as dairy and breeding cattle brought from such areas, unless each individual animal was subjected to the tuberculin test within a certain period prior to shipment. New Jersey requires that bulls, cows and heifers destined for slaughter in New Jersey be tested, except when consigned to certain federally inspected plants.

The live-stock industry, I believe, can see no justification, in view of the tremendous effort that it has made to establish accredited areas which exist today throughout the length and breadth of the land, except as to certain districts in California, which justifies any restriction or control over the interstate movement of these cattle, except

such restrictions and control as are approved by the Bureau of Animal Industry. Breeders and feeders of live stock went to great expense and tremendous effort to comply with the suggestions made by the men who worked under the supervision of Dr. John R. Mohler, chief of bureau, and state sanitary officials in order to establish accredited areas upon the assumption and with the promise, expressed or implied, before them, that if the work was completed interstate movement would be free from restrictions. This promise is not being carried out, and there is no justification, as we see it, for the imposition by any control or restriction on the ground of the existence of tuberculosis which is not established as controlling over the interstate movement of live stock by the Bureau of Animal Industry.

Poultry Restrictions Awry

In regard to the control and eradication of pullorum disease in poultry, we find that the restrictions imposed by various states are quite variant. Some states would require that all baby chicks shipped into those states be from accredited pullorum-disease-free flocks. The agglutination test to establish the existence of pullorum disease, or its non-existence, in poultry has been in use since 1913. While it has been definitely established that positive reaction may occur in many birds not affected by the disease under certain conditions of feed and health, the test is, nevertheless, a valuable one, as in the case of Bang's disease. The question as to whether or not regulations in the form existing in such states as Idaho, Arkansas, and other states, which prohibit shipment to the states of chicks not produced from tested flocks, should be maintained is debatable. But that such states should apply the same regulations to intrastate sales of chicks as to interstate sales of chicks by hatcheries is undebatable.

In the case of *Reid v. Colorado* (187 U. S. 137, 47 L. Ed. 108) the basic case upon which the authority of states, as well as the federal government, to regulate the interstate transportation of live-stock rests, the Supreme Court upheld regulations of the State of Colorado in regard to the importation of tick-infected cattle or cattle subject to tick infection into that state. It broadly sustained the authority of the state, despite the federal statutes establishing the Bureau of Animal Industry and authorizing it to establish regulations in relations to interstate commerce transportation, also to apply regulations not inconsistent therewith in the interests of the state itself. The court said:

"Our conclusion is that the statute of Colorado as here involved does not cover the same ground as the Act of Congress, and, therefore, is not inconsistent with that act; and its constitutionality is not to be questioned unless it be in violation of the constitution of the United States, independently of any legislation by Congress."

The court then proceeded to hold that

the act of Colorado was not unconstitutional. In closing the opinion:

"One other objection to the Colorado statute must be noted; namely, that it is inconsistent with the clause of the constitution declaring that the citizens of each state shall be entitled to all privileges and immunities of citizens in the several states. This position is untenable. The statute is equally applicable to citizens of all states. No discrimination is shown. No privileges are granted to citizens of Colorado that are denied to citizens of other states."

Consistency Important

It is, therefore, important from a legal viewpoint that regulations under which states impose restrictions upon the import of cattle or other live stock into the state be consistent with regulations imposed upon the movement of cattle or other live stock within the state. In other words, the idea that drastic regulations on importations from other states of live stock made under the guise of sanitary regulation can establish a sort of an economic tariff or barrier against such importation is very likely to lead to court decisions striking down in toto all of such restrictions.

In the so-called Wisconsin-New York case (*Mintz vs. Baldwin*, 289 U. S. 346, 77 L. Ed. 1245) the Supreme Court upheld the validity of regulations put in effect by the State of New York prohibiting the shipment from other states to New York of dairy and breeding cattle over six months of age which did not come directly from herds certified to be free from Bang's disease by the chief live-stock sanitary officials of the state of origin, such animals to be accompanied at the time of import by a certificate authenticated by such live-stock sanitary official showing the name and address of the laboratory or person making the last blood test on such herd, with a complete statement of the result of such test on the animal so imported.

Authority Could Be Extended

The objection made to the validity of this regulation by the plaintiff in this particular case was that the order of the chief sanitary official of the State of New York was in conflict with the federal statutes relating to the interstate transportation of live stock. No objection was urged on the ground that the same was not applied as to the movement and sale of local live stock or to the sale of live stock by citizens of the State of New York. The court, in holding that there was no conflict between the present federal statutes and the order of the State of New York, said:

"Plaintiff's cattle were not inspected by, and no certificate was issued under, federal authority. Unless the act itself operates to prevent the enforcement of the order, the suit was rightly dismissed. The express exclusion of state inspection extends only to cases where federal inspection has been made and certificate issued. The clause cannot be

(Continued on page 27)

NO PROCESSING TAX WANTED IN CORN BELT

BY JAMES E. POOLE

POST-ELECTION PLACIDITY pervades the ambient Corn Belt atmosphere. Results may be variously construed, but from no angle can they be considered as an expression of approval of the Farm Act, of corn acreage allotments, or premeditated live-stock processing taxes. The new corn loan, prescribed as an emollient, is actually an aggravation. County committees and farm advisers got in their best licks, but the agrarian vote was decidedly adverse. Secretary Wallace, professing confusion, must have had a hunch when the corn referendum was declared "off." The Corn Belt is antagonistic to such acreage allotments as were imposed in 1938, to marketing projects, and, more than all, to a "new source of revenue" to provide "parity price" money—processing taxes.

Announcement of a processing tax program prior to election was a boner. Secretary Hull adroitly avoided duplication. Denunciation of the former is unanimous. To be exact, it has no audible proponents, the Canadian episode eliciting less comment, although Secretary Wallace's comment that Hull "did nothing for the farmer" gets approval. Vivid recollection of what the processing tax did to the hog market before the "nine old men" snuffed it out, coupled with conviction that such a tax is paid by growers, makes opposition determined. Speculation centers on what Congress may do with the present Farm Act, Secretary Wallace's latest declaration that "it is the sole hope for putting agriculture back on a business basis" amounting to a challenge, in view of current opposition outside the cotton sphere.

Need New Revenue

Farm Act sponsors will resort to strenuous effort to keep the act intact with a strong infusion of new revenue—otherwise, processing taxes. This will be disguised as "re-enactment to provide for parity payments to farmers acting in the program." Mr. Wallace insists that processing taxes "are the one important thing missing" from the current program.

Added money to provide parity payments "to bring farm prices and farmers' income up to the relative position in comparison with other prices and national income which farmers enjoyed before the war" may involve as much as \$2,000,000,000 based on current prices. Available is only \$212,000,000 voted by the last Congress. To carry out the program this year will necessitate either a large additional appropriation or substantial processing taxes, to the imposition of which opposition is inevitable. The writer has attended a round dozen cattle feeders' meetings in Iowa and

Illinois recently, failing to elicit a single favorable opinion.

Few Favor Tax

Farm Bureau mouthpieces favor these taxes, but for obvious reasons are saying nothing, evading comment. At feeders' gatherings where the proposition has been roundly denounced they attempt no defense. Other than the Bureau, no favoring agrarian society can be found. The Bureau's prosperity dates from the moment it became disbursing agent for the AAA. However, it is now on the defensive, facing mounting opposition as cracks in the sacrosanct program develop.

Surplus crop control is apparently a dream of the iridescent type, having failed signally both with cotton and corn. Unless drought intervenes or compulsion is applied, another big corn crop will be due next fall, as a large acreage has been prepared. That growers are not in a mood for submission to compulsion, which the planners assert will be used only as a final resort, does not need assertion. Equally apparent is the intention of thousands of growers to ignore acreage allotments this year if the 1938 dope sheet is used. The protest is against inequitable farm figures.

More Trouble Ahead

Corn is piled everywhere east of the Missouri River, private estimates substantially exceeding official figures. New crib capacity is running up labor and lumber bills; elevators, interior and terminal, are gorged. And it is grain of the first quality, equal to that of 1937, for which a prolonged fall was responsible. Instead of reducing aggregate yields, acreage allotments had the opposite effect, those renouncing the plan raising in excess of their normal acreage. When a 1939 surplus, probable, is added to 1937 and 1938 accumulation, the planners will run into more vicissitude. Cattle on feed have made phenomenal gains, even on cured pastures. There is a disposition to hold corn, primarily to permit liquidation of the government holding at terminal elevators; secondarily to play the market for a rise, as below 50 cents corn is on the bargain counter. Consumption has been reduced by open weather, and the carry-over into the new crop year will be heavy in any event. Just two years ago corn was rising to the dollar mark amid prediction of continued scarcity and high cost. That scarcity stimulated production of substitute feeds in 1937 and 1938, affording feeders opportunity to discover how far they can go with curtailment of corn in their rations.

Feeders Unload

New-crop steers, in preparation for the market, are well along. Many have already been cashed; others will go during the next sixty to 100 days. So far they have paid well for their board, and, as feeders are somewhat "jittery," this condition draws them to the beef-

rail. Some sections are carrying more cattle than usual; others are short, notably central Illinois and southern Iowa. Indiana was a heavy purchaser all through the summer and fall, Ohio restraining its spending impulse. Few two-year-old steers are found in feedlots, as they were not available during the winter season. Regular feeders did not secure their usual winter supply, protesting against prices and expectant of picking up short-feds in December and January economically. In sections where country stock cattle sales were held regularly, more cattle are on feed than elsewhere. No matter where one goes, inquiry centers on probable stocker supply and prices, especially next spring. Summer feeding paid handsomely in 1938, and will be duplicated if the necessary steers are available.

Old-style red stockers, formerly plentiful in southern Wisconsin, Minnesota, northern Iowa, and Missouri, no longer decorate the landscape. When the dairy cow came, the doom of the red cow was sealed. Drought followed and non-descript beef herds vanished. Formerly many such cattle were fed out during the winter; few being available, demand for cheaper grades of westerns has developed. A scattering of crossbred, beef-dairy calves and yearlings is in evidence, but not in sufficient numbers to make a substantial addition to beef supply. Crossbred calves command a premium, farmers putting them on "boarder" dairy cows in preference to milking. A Wisconsin man shipped two 800-pound steers of this type to Chicago recently, realizing \$10.50 per cwt., or far more than the milk consumed was worth.

Battle of Breeds

Howard J. Gramlich, formerly of the Nebraska Agricultural College, now secretary of the American Shorthorn Association, has undertaken the task of reviving commercial interest in that breed, addressing a number of interior gatherings recently. Secretary Tomhave of the Angus association is doing the same stuff. This activity is the result of interest in beef production east of the Missouri River. West of that artery the Hereford occupies a commanding, if not impregnable, position. If the other breeds have a commercial future, it lies toward the Atlantic seaboard. Another battle of the breeds is in progress, with Herefords in the lead because whiteface cows are available, although the bargain sale has passed.

Resentment of the stock-yards strike at Chicago late in November is intense. Another outrage of the same nature occurred at Sioux City, where rioting made necessary incarceration of offenders. Live-stock growers realize the extent to which their property is jeopardized by these outbreaks. Strikers at Chicago, comprising a minority, coerced the majority, causing suspension of business without notice. When this occurred, around \$1,000,000 worth of live stock

had barely been yarded. Permission to feed and water from the strikers was necessary, and to effect a clearance two days later owners were reduced to the role of permittees. No violence developed at Chicago, as at Sioux City, but the situation was pregnant. Had the A. F. of L. men attempted to remain at their posts anything might have happened.

PAST QUARTER CENTURY MEAT STUDY GREATEST

DESPITE THE FACT THAT MEAT has been an important food in the diet of man since the earliest ages, the past twenty-five years have witnessed more progress in determining the place of meat in the diet and its relation to health than in all previous history," declared R. C. Pollock, general manager of the National Live Stock and Meat Board in his report at the semi-annual meeting of that organization.

"The live-stock and meat industry has been constantly establishing new frontiers, but the fact that the whole field of nutrition is so new accounts for the seemingly slow advance previously made in meat research. Today, with changes in foods and in food habits, the necessity of a well-balanced normal diet is more than ever realized. Recent accomplishments in a research program have largely been made possible by the industry's leaders who have recognized the need of digging out the facts about meat. The National Research Council, colleges and universities, and other agencies have been indispensable allies in this program."

Earlier efforts of research workers, according to Mr. Pollock, were concerned with the protein value of meat. This attention, he stated, was fully justified, considering the importance of this element nutritionally. Among the essential food elements, protein is of first importance. An abundance of protein in the diet is necessary for both adults and children. Studies have shown not only that meat is one of the richest sources of protein but also that this protein is of a superior quality.

Referring to their discovery of the value of liver in the prevention and treatment of anemia, Mr. Pollock characterized the achievements of Drs. Minot, Murphy, and Whipple as one of the greatest scientific discoveries of all time. "Without doubt this work has been responsible for the saving of thousands of lives," he asserted. "In addition, it has probably exerted a tremendous influence toward furthering additional meat research."

"The value of meat as a source of iron and of phosphorus has been confirmed by many investigators," said Mr. Pollock. "Based on average servings, meat leads other foods in these important elements."

The board's manager cited weight-re-

ducing and weight-gaining studies showing that overweight persons lost from eight to twelve pounds a month on a diet which included meat two or more times daily, and underweight persons on a liberal meat diet gained an average of one and a half pounds a week per person. In the reducing diet lean meat was used and starches and sugars were held to a minimum, while in the gaining diet the fat of the meat was not removed and starches and sugars were not limited.

That a new conception of the value of meat as a source of vitamins has been made possible by recent research was stressed by Mr. Pollock. Citing the work of Dr. Paul L. Day, of the University of Arkansas, and Dr. C. A. Elvehjem, of the University of Wisconsin, he stated that the newer findings relative to the vitamin B content of meat are arousing widespread interest. In tests with small experimental animals it has been shown that addition of meat to the diet has supplied deficiencies of certain factors of this vitamin.

Authorities seem agreed, Mr. Pollock declared, that the addition of lean meat, kidney, or liver to the diet of pellagra sufferers would be effective in stamping out the disease.

Calling attention to another phase of meat research, Mr. Pollock stated that a score or more of colleges, universities, and the Department of Agriculture are engaged in a study involving production, processing, and cooking. The meat-cooking phase alone has revolutionized previous methods of preparing meat for the table. For example, high temperatures in cooking meat have been declared out of date and the value of meat-saving and fuel-saving lower temperatures proved.

HELPING TO PRESERVE THE DEMOCRATIC WAY

ARIZONA DOES NOT HAVE A soil conservation law. But agitation for such legislation is current there, and a bill may be presented in its next legislature. The measure would be patterned after a sample bill sent out by the Department of Agriculture. It would provide for ways of compelling minorities to adopt certain practices on their lands.

Arizona cattlemen do not want the law—even though it has already been adopted by a score or more states. The Arizona Cattle Growers' Association reports that "no cattlemen have been found who favor such a law." Members of the San-Pima Cattle Growers' Association opposed it by resolution adopted at a recent meeting. And sound reasoning to back this opposition is found in a letter by Frank S. Boice, of Sonoita, Arizona, which we quote from the Arizona association's "News Letter":

"I listened, a few days ago, to a dis-

cussion of the issues involved in the renewed attempt of certain interests to pass a state soil conservation law. That discussion started in me a train of thought which has finally reached back to fundamentals. In so far as I am able I shall outline my thinking to you. Perhaps others will be interested enough to enter the discussion and something worth while come of it.

"There are certain aspects of the whole problem which during the last two years have become more and more clear. We all realize now that if it were not for the constant pressure put on the Graham County legislative delegation by the Soil Conservation Service (they, of course, take their orders from the Department in Washington) there would be no demand for a soil conservation law. And it is certainly clear now that the only kind of law that will satisfy the Safford group is one embodying the compulsory features. And it should certainly be clear to them that the stockmen of Arizona will not accept willingly that kind of law; that they instinctively rebel against so drastic a curtailment of their property rights.

"The issue is clear—the Soil Conservation Service wants to be able to compel a stockman to follow certain soil conservation practices, and the stockmen wish that the soil conservation program be kept on a voluntary co-operative basis, as it is at present.

"We stockmen are, perhaps, a hard-headed, individualistic group; but in this instance we are right, for fundamentally we are insisting that the democratic process be followed. I can see clearly the difficulty from the Soil Conservation Service's point of view of the voluntary method. At best it is slow, and in some instances almost impossible. If a stockman controls a large enough area to cover an entire watershed, or if he is located on the upper part of the watershed, their problem is relatively simple. They need only convince the stockman that their work is beneficial. On the other hand, if a watershed is divided among many owners, then it is impossible to work any of the area unless they can have the co-operation of all. And we must agree that obtaining the co-operation of an entire group of this kind must necessarily be slow.

"But the point I wish to make is that the democratic process is *always* slow, and the more difficult the problem the slower it will be. There must first come suggestions for a solution and then free discussion of these suggestions. Discussion makes for better understanding of both the problem and the suggested solutions, and gradually we work toward the answer, which must always be a compromise. That, to my mind, is the democratic way—and it is slow.

"The Safford group is not the only one that has shown its impatience with the democratic way. The typical bureaucrat, having decided in his wisdom what is best for the rest of us, becomes impatient of the slow democratic way of getting results, and he attempts to use force. Impatience is typical of the reformer, as is enthusiasm.

"During the last few years we have seen many attempts by high government

officials to shortcut the democratic way. Eastern Europe, today, shows us the ultimate, where under great stress the democratic method has been broken down and replaced by dictatorship, and with the change the citizen has lost both his personal freedom and his property rights and become the slave of the state.

"I don't mean to predict that we are going to the extreme of Eastern Europe—even though I am not at all sure that the democratic method will stand up in the competition that is coming between the democracies and the totalitarian states. But, I do know that we have taken at least some steps in that direction and that those who show their impatience with the democratic way are shoving us along that road.

"When we take a broad look at the problems of democracy, a soil conservation law for Arizona may seem insignificant, but in the position we take regarding it we have a chance to do our part in preserving the democratic way."

INCOME FROM CATTLE AND CALVES INCREASED

CATTLE PRODUCERS IN 1937 realized a cash income of \$1,217,000,000, the largest in eight years, reports the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Income in 1933 was \$599,000,000; in 1936, \$1,098,000,000; in 1918, \$2,029,000,000, which was the largest in thirty years.

Income dropped sharply during the 1930-33 period. An important factor in its recovery since then has been the relatively short supply of hogs. Marketings of cattle and calves the past five years have increased considerably. Commercial slaughter in 1936 was the largest on record. Government purchases in the drought relief program in 1934 and 1935, totaling \$111,000,000, helped to strengthen prices.

Broad Swings

Income from cattle and calves has experienced several rather broad swings in the past thirty years. From 1914 to 1918 it rose sharply as markets increased under war-time demand. Then came a sharp drop—the war-time demand collapsed. Marketings decreased sharply. But from 1922 through 1928 income rose steadily. During the first four years of this period both marketings and demand increased, trending prices upward. In the latter two years, demand improved and marketings decreased, but price advances offset reduction in sales, resulting in further increase in income.

The changes in income from cattle and calves have been brought about to a much greater extent by fluctuations in prices than by the changes in the other component of income-sales. The yearly average price of cattle and calves received fluctuated from a high of \$10.21 in 1919 down to \$3.86 in 1933. Market-

ings varied between 14,300,000,000 and 20,800,000,000 pounds. On this basis, prices at the peak were over two and one-half times as high as at the low; peak of marketings was about one and one-half times greater than the low point.

Different from Other Products

The relationship between supply and prices of cattle and calves during the thirty years over which the bureau's studies have extended has been somewhat different from that for many other agricultural products. Cattle and calves are one of the few commodities in which marketings tend to be large in periods of high prices and low in periods of low prices.

During the past thirty years there were three periods when marketings (supply) were relatively large: 1916 to 1919, 1922 to 1926, and 1933 to 1937. During each of these periods there was a steadily improving demand for cattle and beef and prices advanced along with the increases in supplies, and the peaks of supplies and prices were not far apart. In contrast, in the two intervals between these three periods, supplies and prices tended to decline together, and the low points of supplies and prices were not far apart. Because of this combination of large supplies and high prices and low supplies and low prices, the fluctuations in income from cattle have been wide and have exceeded fluctuations in either prices or supplies.

United States cash and gross farm income from cattle and calves, 1909-37, is given as below (millions of dollars):

	Cash income from sales of cattle, calves, beef and veal	Value of calves slaughtered for home consumption	Gross income from cattle and calves
1909.....	785	29	814
1910.....	851	32	883
1911.....	784	29	813
1912.....	885	32	917
1913.....	999	36	1,036
1914.....	985	37	1,023
1915.....	966	33	999
1916.....	1,132	35	1,167
1917.....	1,651	42	1,693
1918.....	2,029	48	2,077
1919.....	1,921	47	1,968
1920.....	1,528	41	1,569
1921.....	876	27	903
1922.....	1,037	26	1,063
1923.....	1,042	26	1,068
1924.....	1,119	24	1,143
1925.....	1,252	24	1,276
1926.....	1,271	23	1,294
1927.....	1,336	24	1,360
1928.....	1,556	25	1,581
1929.....	1,495	24	1,519
1930.....	1,184	21	1,204
1931.....	838	16	854
1932.....	621	15	635
1933.....	599	14	614
1934.....	815	15	830
1935.....	1,062	21	1,083
1936.....	1,098	21	1,119
1937.....	1,217	23	1,240

DISEASE WORST ENEMY OF WILD LIFE

LOSSES OCCASIONED BY SHOOT-ing and trapping and other losses from natural causes are the two factors governing the populations of game birds and animals. Of the two, the loss occasioned by natural causes probably exceeds that which results from shooting, but the amount of game taken by the sportsman can be regulated and controlled while that destroyed otherwise has usually been considered as a complete and unpreventable loss, believes Ira N. Gabrielson, chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey.

Naturalists know that a very large percentage of newly hatched grouse, or ducks, for example, will be killed by disease or predators, or by flood, fire, or drought, so that only a few will reach maturity and be allowed to reproduce. No doubt a great proportion of this type of destruction cannot be prevented by any human agency, and must be charged off as a total loss; yet it is surely wise to examine all these influences closely to discover whether the situation is as hopeless as it may seem to be.

Enemies of Wild Life

Disease in one form or another is one of the most pernicious and devastating of the enemies of wild life, but it has only been recently that attempts have been made to find means for controlling such diseases for the primary purpose of benefiting wild life itself.

Several important game species are known to pass through cycles of abundance and scarcity irrespective of hunting activities, food supply, or weather conditions. Pathologists have considered the various destructive agencies that may be involved with the cyclic, or periodic, decreases of game, but thus far no one factor appears to fit so adequately into the picture as disease. The game species usually mentioned as those affected by this periodicity are rabbits and grouse.

There is a gradual "build-up" of populations over a variable period of years with an acceleration near the peak, but after one or more years of great abundance some obscure condition enters the picture and causes a precipitous decline. These losses have never been adequately studied. In fact, the mortality is seldom recognized until after the peak of losses has passed.

Animals Vanish

Sick or dead animals are difficult to find. The tendency of sick animals to secrete themselves and remain quiet enables them to escape observation. Dead specimens are readily disposed of by scavenger mammals, birds, and insects, so that in a short time no trace of the carcass can be detected. Thus it often occurs that a dense population may be almost completely wiped out and yet

few evidences remain to attract the attention of the casual observer.

The more or less sudden disappearance of game regularly occurs where there is a dense population. Where animals are excessively abundant the possibilities for the spread of disease are greatest because concentrations increase the opportunity for the spread of infections by parasites or other means from one subject to another. Likewise in dense populations pollution of the range reaches a maximum and the consequent spread of parasites and other infectious organisms may be exceedingly rapid.

Remedies

As to remedial measures, it is suggested that overpopulation of any area with any species should be avoided. Since disease spreads most actively in dense populations, the game crop should be harvested before the saturation point is reached. This can be done by judicious use of hunting regulations. Eliminating the sources of pollution obviously would lessen certain types of losses, and regulation of water levels where feasible can save many water birds and mammals.

THE FINAL FADE-OUT OF GRASS BEEF

BY JAMES E. POOLE

PREDICTION BY WALLIS HUIDEKOPER, of Montana, some years back that within a decade grass beef would disappear from beef distribution channels, western commercial breeders centering on stockers, is at the realization stage. Tonnage of grass beef in 1938 was short enough to be insignificant. Chicago received but 85,000 head of western cattle, all told, of which the majority were merely beef prospects. Other markets made the same proportionate beef showing. Processors went into the winter with the smallest stocks of frozen beef in trade history, most of it low-grade meat suited for sausage and other sidelines.

The season's western gathering caught few aged steers. Probably this development is permanent. Consumer beef taste in recent years has changed decisively. Grass product no longer vends with facility. Mammoth three- and four-year-old steers, conspicuous in the summer and fall movement formerly, are out of style definitely and forever.

Grasser Competition Gone

Over a long period western grassers and Corn Belt short-feds were in keen competition from August to December. Killers gave westerns preference owing to superior yields and the fact that surplus product could be stored. That competition has disappeared. In fact, beef channels would have been bare from September to November last year but

for the presence of merely warmed-up steers, practically all of western origin. Many of these realized \$10.50 to \$11.50 per cwt., paying \$1 per bushel for 50-cent corn, while the limit on heavy Montana steers, well wintered and weighing 1,450 pounds, was \$10. Few western steers off grass realized \$9; grass heifers sold at \$6.50 to \$7.50, and cows at \$6 to \$6.75. On the other hand, western calves went to feeders anywhere from \$9.50 to \$10.75; a few loads at \$11 to \$11.25. Feeding yearlings went to the country at \$8.50 to \$9.75.

Best Bet

Obviously the western breeder's best bet is marketing his increase either at the weaning or yearling stage. Only choice long-fed steers have a permanent footing at the market under present conditions, and beef trade can absorb only a short poundage of this product. Conditions—feed, financial, and otherwise—will determine the economical age at which to market. Theoretically, the yearling is the most profitable stage, both for breeders and feeders, as it can be short-fed at minimum cost. Whereas calves must be carried into the following year, always at a risk, yearlings are competent to take care of themselves. This winter western yearlings have made phenomenal gains, enabling feeders to sell the product within seventy to ninety days after purchase. Consensus is that long feeds are unprofitable except in isolated cases, frequently involving loss.

Modern practice will necessitate carrying more cows in the West, sending the annual increase to the feeder at younger age and less weight, and utilizing more cattle, as beef poundage per head will be reduced. This system will increase the usefulness of plain, and even rough, steers by cashing them, fat, below 1,000 pounds. There is trouble for both feeder and processor in every animal of this type carried to 1,100 to 1,200 pounds; disaster if held longer. They cut coarse, carrying excess bone and waste, and cannot be utilized for discriminating trade. Spreads between 1,200- to 1,300-pound fat plain steers and 950- to 1,050-pound yearlings of practically the same quality are convincing, and the light cattle cost far less to make. All the logic bearing on the problem favors light, 900- to 1,050-pound steers capable of hanging up a creditable carcass without running into long, expensive feeds. The other extreme is marketing a quality yearling in slightly better than stocker flesh.

West Closely Sold

Feed plentitude and reduction of numbers will carry a modicum of yearlings and two-year-old steers through the winter, but no surplus is possible. The entire country west of the Missouri River is closely sold up on all ages and sexes. Traders returning from the field report that they were unable to dislodge cattle, although well supplied with or-

ders. At every central market, December demand for something capable of paying a feed bill was insatiable. Scores of buyers returned from the breeding area empty-handed. All the information available is that the holdover is in strong hands, probably until next fall if grass comes in the spring. This condition exists from Texas to Alberta.

Writing from Marfa, Texas, late in December, W. B. Mitchell says:

"We are practically out of calves, not only in the Highland country but throughout the entire Southwest, as the movement has been one of the largest in years and the holdover less than any year I can recall. We are receiving inquiries daily for calves to go everywhere, but none are to be had. This is also true of the movement of cows, especially stocker cows, thousands having been shipped from this country to California. We have shipped about 250 cars of cows in all directions and are getting daily calls from California and elsewhere for more.

"Our herds in the Great Bend section of Texas have been closely culled, the number of cows remaining being a low record. Many herds have been reduced 50 to 75 per cent below normal."

George H. Kennedy, of Cedar County, Iowa, recently held an auction to dispose of the 1937 and 1938 increase of his Hereford herd, calves and yearlings. The event attracted about 1,000 people. The sale netted \$34,000, only one load, cows culled from the breeding herd, going outside a fifty-mile radius, which indicates demand, as Kennedy received mail requests for in excess of 1,000 calves and yearlings from points as far east as Ohio.

CALIFORNIA CATTLEMEN MEET IN SAN FRANCISCO

MEMBERS OF THE CALIFORNIA Cattlemen's Association at their annual convention held in San Francisco, December 9 and 10, re-elected Hugh Baber, of Chico, as president for the third consecutive year. Baber was nominated by T. Wilson Dibblee, of Santa Barbara County, the nomination being seconded by George Sawday, of San Diego County. Harvey Russell, of Madera, was re-elected vice-president, and John Curry retained as secretary.

Commenting on the convention in the *Western Live Stock Journal*, Walter Miller said:

"Surpassing in significance all the acts of the California Cattlemen's Association in their twenty-second annual convention at the Palace Hotel, San Francisco, December 9 and 10, is the return of Hugh Baber to carry on through another year as president. It means another year of pacific, virile leadership. President Baber delivered as fine an address as has been heard by the cattlemen in many a day. . . . At no time in twenty years has this group been swayed by greater unity of purpose.

Gone are the old antagonisms. Their solidarity is a splendid tribute to the leadership and efforts of the present officers, including President Hubbard Russell of the American National, in coordinating state and national actions."

Hub Russell, in his address before the convention, dwelt chiefly on the Canadian agreement, the Argentine pact, National Live Stock and Meat Board, Bang's disease, freight rates, and beef grading and stamping. He stated the new Canadian agreement had been advertised as of benefit to American agriculture, but actually, he said, concessions had been made on agricultural products coming into the United States. He told of the new quotas and reduced rates which will be effective after January 1, 1939.

Ezra Fjeldsted, chief of the Division of Live Stock, Golden Gate International Exposition, told of all the live-stock shows to be held next year on Treasure Island in San Francisco Bay. He stressed the fact that a Beef Cattle Show will commence on February 18, the very next day after the convention of the American National Live Stock Association ends.

Other speakers at the convention were S. B. Show, regional forester; Davenport Phelps, of the National Live Stock and Meat Board; Matthew S. Platz, of Bakersfield; Fred Ellinwood, of Red Bluff, honorary life president of the National Wool Growers' Association; Jim G. Bardin, of Salinas, past president of the Monterey County Cattlemen's Association; Colonel Edward N. Wentworth, of Chicago, representing Armour and Company; Joseph W. Gross, civil engineer of Sacramento. Harris Connick, chief director of the International Exposition, himself interested in the live-stock industry, delivered the address of welcome.

Among the resolutions adopted were the following:

- Asking state and federal agencies to make suitable regulations providing for removal of surplus game and adoption of game management plans;

- Asking legislation to provide equitable distribution of grazing fees derived through Taylor Grazing Act;

- Endorsing work of California Mountaineers;

- Opposing proposed Argentine sanitary pact;

- Commending San Joaquin experimental range;

- Opposing one-house legislature;

- Favoring McCarran live-stock theft bill, which is designed to make federal offense of transporting stolen live stock across state line;

- Opposing processing tax on live stock;
- Opposing rate sections of Highway Carriers Act;

- Commending Forest Service;

- Asking Forest Service to co-operate in controlled burning of brush;

- Requesting revision of state fence law in certain counties;

- Asking that picnicking and camping around stock watering places be prohibited;

- Asking creation of advisory board to co-operate with Forest Service;

- Urging construction of live-stock trails to avoid driving live stock on highways;

- Asking University of California to continue and extend program to find suitable reseeding grasses;

- Commending work of Earl McKenzie as member of Fish and Game Commission;

- Thanking Associated Sportsmen for co-operation;

- Opposing establishment of Kings Canyon National Park;

- Urging continuance of State Board of Forestry's controlled brush burning program and appropriations for this work;

- Asking state meat inspection costs be paid by state, just as federal inspection costs are paid by federal government;

- Opposing change in laws relating to sale of slaughtered calves;

- Urging that future trade agreements be ratified by Senate so public may be informed and protected against secret negotiations and one-man power in final determination;

- Thoroughly disapproving newly signed Canadian trade agreement;

- Opposing cancellation of feeder freight rates and urging railroads to effect economies to secure more net revenue;

- Asking that research about Bang's disease be continued and expanded, that no money be provided for indemnities for this disease, and that no compulsory program be adopted until sound plan has been developed;

- Asking that sales of live stock under Sales Tax Act be considered sales for resale;

- Appreciating administration of A. A. Brock, state director of agriculture;

- Thanking University of California for work in behalf of beef-cattle industry;

- Favoring beef grading and stamping, so consumers may identify quality and avoid confusion and deception in retailing of meats;

- Urging discontinuance of soil conservation act;

- Favoring competition in truck transportation;

- Urging cattlemen to contribute to National Live Stock and Meat Board to promote beef advertising.

FEED PROBLEMS DISCUSSED IN CHICAGO

MANY PROBLEMS OF THE LIVE-stock and meat industry were given attention at the annual meeting of the American Society of Animal Production, held in Chicago on November 25 and 26. Professor D. W. Williams, Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College, president of the society, presided at the various meetings. New president is Dr. J. L. Lush, of Iowa State College.

Rations for Yearling Steers

Paul Gerlaugh and C. W. Gay, of the Ohio experiment station, presented the results of three feeding tests with steers carried on in the Ohio State University feed-lots. Choice steers weighing 650 to

700 pounds were used, and each feeding test was carried on for an average of 240 days. The purpose of the tests was to determine the effect of reducing the corn and increasing the hay content for yearling steers.

Each steer on test was allowed 1½ pounds of a 45 per cent supplement, 15 pounds of silage, and a full feed of alfalfa hay daily. Lot 1 was given a full feed of corn-and-cob meal. Lot 2 was given a three-fourths feed of corn-and-cob meal, and Lot 3 received half as much corn-and-cob meal as Lot 1. The steers of Lot 1 gained 1.91 pounds per head daily, Lot 2 steers gained 1.78 pounds, and Lot 3 steers gained 1.69 pounds per head daily. The tests indicated that there was little choice between the rations of Lots 1 and 2, but Lot 3 received too small an amount of corn for best financial returns, thus showing the disadvantage of cutting the corn intake too sharply. The returns from Lot 3 were about \$8 per steer less than those from Lots 1 and 2.

Creep-Feeding of Calves

Bruce R. Taylor, of the Oklahoma experiment station, reported the results of five years of work in creep-feeding March and April calves to be finished in the dry-lot after weaning.

He reported that the results of the first four years' work indicate that creep-feeding is not to be recommended for such calves, since the extra finish acquired by creep-feeding will result in the calves making slower and less efficient gains during the finishing period. The results did indicate, however, that creep-feeding of well-bred spring calves will produce a heavier and fatter calf that can usually be sold for a higher price at weaning time than similar calves not creep-fed. Mr. Taylor stated that a 1937 trial with heifer calves and four years' work with mixed steers and heifers, indicates clearly that a finishing period of sixty days or less is the most profitable for the creep-fed calf.

Proper Care and Feed

L. M. Winters, of the Minnesota agricultural experiment station, asserted that we should always remember that no animal can show its real capacity to produce unless it is given proper care and feed. He brought out that in comparing corn yields, it is found that one variety may show up to better advantage under one environment and another variety may do better under a different environment. Taking this cue, he said that perhaps we should be giving more consideration to the suitability of breeds and strains of meat animals for different environmental conditions. The speaker also pointed out that when we develop reliable productivity tests for meat animals, it is probable that just as wide differences will be found among them as have been found in tests among dairy cattle.

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

MEETINGS OF INTEREST TO STOCKMEN

HENRY G. BOICE, of Arizona; **C. J. Abbott**, of Nebraska; **Albert K. Mitchell**, of New Mexico; **Jay Taylor**, of Texas; and **J. Elmer Brock**, of Wyoming—the full **Legislative Committee of the American National Live Stock Association**—met in Chicago November 28-29. **Charles E. Collins**, of Colorado, alternate member; **Hubbard Russell**, president of the American National, and **F. E. Mollin**, secretary; **John Mackenzie**, manager of the Matador Land and Cattle Company in Texas and Montana; **A. A. Smith**, of Colorado; **Stephen Bixby**, of Arizona; **Fred H. Bixby** and **J. Sheldon Potter**, of California; **A. D. Brownfield** and **B. C. Mossman**, of New Mexico; and **J. B. Wilson**, of Wyoming, were also present. Among important matters that the committee acted upon were beef grading and Bang's disease. Conference with packer representatives and government grading officials resulted in some proposed changes in government grade divisions and unification of that system with the one used by packers. Use by the packers of the new unified system, though not compulsory, will simplify matters and should cause expansion in graded volume handled. The live-stock representatives, conferring with sanitary officials, urged purely voluntary testing in the Bang's program; asked that no further area work be started in the range or semi-range country; and suggested that experiments with vaccine be pushed and results of the research be given publicity.

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National Foreign Trade Council, Inc., meeting in New York, urged "agricultural producers to support the trade agreements program in their own and the national interest." It recommended limitation of government financial aid to agriculture to that portion of the crop which is domestically consumed, and that surplus production be allowed to reach export markets at world prices. It was urged that "the long-established methods of moving farm products be undisturbed by experimental compulsory controls. The government's agricultural policy should avoid restriction on production, which encourages additional growths in foreign countries and leads to reduction of our normal agricultural exports and of employment."

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Santa Barbara County (California) cattlemen, meeting recently at Los Alamos, adopted resolutions asking for funds for prevention of fires spreading from highways; opposing increase in brand inspection fees; and opposing the single tax. . . . A round of meetings in California at which **President Hugh Baber** and **Secretary John Curry**, of the California Cattlemen's Association, spoke

recently included the **Santa Barbara** meeting (**Ted Chamberlin**, of Los Olivos, president); **Siskiyou County Cattlemen's Association** meeting, held in **Yreka** (**Ralph Albee** re-elected president and **Lee Bryan**, secretary); **Tulare County Cattlemen's Association**, meeting held at **Visalia** (**Floyd Cutler**, Visalia, president); **Kern Branch of the CCA** (president, **Art Alexander**), meeting held at **Bakersfield**; and meetings in **Los Angeles** and **Brawley**.

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Re-elected president and secretary of the **Eagle County (Colorado) Stock Growers' Association**, meeting at **Eagle**, Colorado, December 3, were **F. L. Newcomer** and **Nichols Buckholtz**, respectively, both of **Eagle**. Seven calves branded by members under a "calf plan" for support of the local, state, and national associations were bid in at an auction held during the meeting at \$29.50 a head. . . . Among speakers at the annual meeting of the **Grant County Stock Growers' Association**, held in **Canyon City, Oregon**, recently, was **Prof. E. L. Potter**, of the **Oregon State College, Corvallis**. **Wayne Stewart**, of **Dayville, Oregon**, is president of the association.

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Two subjects discussed at a meeting of the **Executive Committee of the Nebraska Stock Growers' Association** at **Mullen, Nebraska**, were: A live-stock sanitary board for Nebraska and state-wide brand inspection. . . . Brand inspection, legislation, and land taxes were discussed at a meeting December 19-20 of the **Executive Committee of the Wyoming Stock Growers' Association**. Out-of-state ranchmen at the meeting included **Tom Jones**, of **Midland, South Dakota**, and **J. H. Nason**, of **Spearfish, South Dakota**, particularly interested in the subject of brand inspection. Governor-elect **Nels H. Smith** attended the meeting.

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A state government survey commission recommendation to abolish Colorado's board of stock inspection commissioners and place the brand and estray monies in the general fund was condemned by the **Plateau Valley Cattle Growers' Association**, meeting at **Collbran, Colorado**. Adoption of the recommendation would be a serious blow to the cattle industry, members declared. The recommendation was one of a number of proposals made by the commission, known as **Griffenhagen and Associates**.

* * *

Resolutions urging extension of sanitary inspection to all cattle slaughtering points and strict enforcement of the state's brand law were adopted at a meeting of the executive board of the **Washington Cattlemen's Association** at **Spokane, Washington**. Opposition was expressed to the **Argentine sanitary**

pact, and to the trade agreement with **Canada**. The cattlemen declared the treaty would double the number of Canadian cattle marketed at **Spokane**. They criticized removal of the quota on dairy cows, and expressed belief that many of these cows quickly would become beef for the market. Announcement was made that these cattlemen would represent the **Washington association** at the **American National Live Stock Association** meeting, in **San Francisco** February 15-17: **Jack Crawford**, of **Yakima**; **John Helphrey**, of **Curlew**; **F. M. Rothrock**, of **Spokane**; **R. L. Picken**, of **Tonasket**; **C. A. Greif**, of **Uniontown**; **Con S. Maddox**, of **Pullman**; **Walter Schrock**, of **Okanogan**; and **Albert Owes**, of **Amber**. The board named the legislative committee as follows: **Robert French**, of **Okanogan**, chairman; **S. P. Fletcher**, of **Colville**; **Howard Roup**, of **Cloverland**; **Fred Magin**, of **Rocklyn**; **A. J. Hensel**, of **Waterville**; **Herb Mermon**, of **Spokane**; and **Jack Crawford**.

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With a record attendance, the seventy-eighth annual convention of the **California Wool Growers' Association**, held November 18 at **San Francisco**, closed its sessions after electing **Marshall Bond**, of **Westhaven**, as president and **L. A. Robertson**, vice-president. Among resolutions adopted were those favoring the **Pettingill bill**; opposing cancellation of feeder rates or increase in live-stock rates; supporting **McCarran live-stock theft bill**; favoring labeling of fabrics as to content of wool and fibers other than wool; expressing satisfaction as to administration of **Taylor Grazing Act** in the area; urging national forest lands valuable for grazing and other purposes to remain as national forests under **Forest Service** administration; opposing continuance of **Soil Conservation Act** as now applied; opposing importation of live stock or animal products from **Argentina** or countries affected with foot-and-mouth disease; opposing trade agreements depriving American producers of American markets.

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President Edward A. O'Neal of the **American Farm Bureau Federation**, in a speech before the federation's convention, hailed federal farm legislation as "the best all-round farm program we have ever had." He said, "You can have unlimited production or fixed prices, but you can't have both at the same time." Farmers would never approve compulsory price fixing, he declared. **O'Neal** praised reciprocal trade agreements. Organized labor should not expect farmers to co-operate with them "except on a basis of parity and a fair division of the national income," declared the bureau head.

* * *

The **National Grange** program, as expressed by the seventy-second annual session at **Portland**, stressed the need

for restoring the American market to the American farmer; demanded no more reciprocal trade agreements be put into effect until ratified by the Senate; demanded extensive amendment of the Farm Act; opposed regimentation of the farmer; opposed corporation farming; favored co-operation in developing distribution, so that consumption may be widened and handling costs minimized. The Grange favored private operation of the railroads; uniform traffic laws; rural electrification; continuation of the federal soil conservation program; further investigation of exorbitant farm machinery prices; satisfactory crop insurance program; expansion of Surplus Commodity Credit Corporation; control and eradication of destructive insects: truth-in-fabrics law. The Grange opposed diversion of motor fees to other than highway purposes; concentration of authority at national capital; transfer of bureaus from Department of Agriculture to other supervision; spread of corporation farming; weakening of sanitary protection against foreign disease; the Pettengill railroad bill or similar legislation.

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Cattlemen in Santa Cruz and Pima counties, Arizona, renamed as head of their San-Pima Cattle Growers' Association Tom Griffin, of Nogales. Joe King, of Tucson, was re-elected vice-president; Jack Weadock, secretary. The following are directors: Henry G. Boice, of Tucson; Hubert d'Autremont, of Tucson; Carlos Ronstadt, of Tucson; Charles Day, of Vail; Gene Burns, of Sonoita; Tom Heady, of Patagonia; Ben Ormond and W. H. Hathaway, of Nogales. Among resolutions adopted was one stating that "while soil conservation methods are excellent for the individual cattleman who may wish to use them, as many now are doing, such use should be purely a matter between the individual and the federal government, and no state legislation is needed to permit such use."

* * *

Speakers at the Grant County (Oregon) Stock Growers' Association annual meeting at Canyon City November 19 were: R. L. Clark, of North Portland; Prof. E. L. Potter, of Corvallis; Arthur Geary, attorney, of Portland; Assistant Regional Forester L. H. Douglas, of Portland; Thomas Montgomery, of Baker; Ed. Birkmaier, supervisor of Malheur National Forest; and W. H. Dial. Officers elected were Wayne Stewart, of Dayville, president; Joseph Officer, of Izee, vice-president; C. A. Trowbridge, of John Day, treasurer; Ralph Brooke, of Canyon City, secretary. Members of the executive committee are Jack French, of Long Creek; Ernest Kimberling, of Prairie City; Niles Sproul, of Logdell; C. V. Vales, of Kimberly; and Douglas Martin, of Dayville.

Outcome of the Yavapai Cattle Growers' Association (Arizona) calf plan this fall, as recently reported at a monthly meeting of the association, was collection from sales of calves donated and checks from members of \$1,369.29. The association voted to continue its plan of support to the American National Live Stock Association to the extent of \$1,000. This is the sixth consecutive year that the Yavapai cattlemen have contributed \$1,000 to the American National. A number of counties in other states have also adopted the "calf plan," and other sections have adopted modified versions of the plan—all to the great benefit of the American National.

* * *

To improve the quality of their live stock, members of the Crow Valley Live Stock Co-operative Association met recently near Briggsdale, Colorado, and authorized culling of undesirable bulls from their herds and replacement by approved registered sires. A committee was appointed—A. C. Allen, animal husbandman for Colorado State College extension service; Henry Prange, local stockman and association member; and James L. Painter, stockman, of Roggen—to cull the bulls and approve purchase of new stock.

* * *

One of the two resolutions adopted by the United States Live Stock Sanitary Association convention at Chicago opposed the "establishment of commercial relations with any country in which foot-and-mouth disease is indigenous of a nature permitting the importation of products likely to introduce, or capable of introducing, this disease in the United States," and urged "continued maintenance of such sanitary restrictions as will adequately and completely safeguard the live-stock industry of the United States against the introduction into this country of any communicable disease of animals."

* * *

The National Food Distributors' Association, an organization made up of sellers and deliverers of various products direct to retail dealers through more than 25,000 trucks, voted recently to support the drive to seek repeal of special license taxes on oleomargarine. It was also suggested that "margarine" or "margarin" be substituted for the word "oleomargarine." . . . A regional assembly of state officers meeting recently in Chicago considered a program to eliminate interstate trade barriers such as those resulting from what was described as "discriminatory taxes" on such items as liquor, oleomargarine, etc.

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At the annual meeting of the National Swine Growers' Association held in Chicago request was made for an appropriation from the National Live Stock and Meat Board to exploit lard and pork products.

THE NATIONAL CONVENTION

THE CONVENTION OF THE American National Live Stock Association at San Francisco is now but a bit more than a month off. You should make your reservations. A record crowd is expected there on February 15-17.

Headquarters will be at the Palace Hotel. And when you make your reservation there, tell the hotel the date of your departure, if you intend to stay beyond the seventeenth—it will save you hotel expense. Rates are: Single room, with bath, \$4; room for two, double bed, bath, \$6; room for two, twin beds, bath, \$7.

Stockmen will want to stay over. The Golden Gate International Exposition opens the day after the convention, and first on the list of attractions is a Beef Cattle Show at Treasure Island, to be followed by a half dozen other live-stock shows. There will be a Hereford sale under the management of the American Hereford Association. Besides, Cattlemen's Day at the exposition will be the twentieth. Many attractions are in store.

The rail lines will authorize reduced round-trip fares for the event, tickets to be on sale beginning February 1.

Calendar

- Jan. 16-18—Convention Montana Wool Growers' Ass'n, Butte.
- Jan. 24-26—Convention National Wool Growers' Ass'n, San Angelo, Tex.
- Jan. 28-Feb. 4—National Western Stock Show, Denver.
- Feb. 7-14—Ogden Live Stock Show, Ogden, Utah.
- Feb. 15-17—Convention American National Live Stock Ass'n, San Francisco.
- Feb. 18-28—Golden Gate International Exposition Beef Cattle Show, San Francisco.
- Feb. 18-22—Southwestern Live Stock and Agricultural Show, El Paso, Tex.
- Feb. 23-25—Southwest Texas Boys' Fat Stock Show, San Antonio.
- Feb. 25-Mar. 5—Houston Fat Stock Show, Houston, Tex.
- Mar. 1-3—Convention Kansas Live Stock Ass'n, Wichita.
- Mar. 3-6—San Angelo Fat Stock Show, San Angelo, Tex.
- Mar. 3-10—Tucson Live Stock Show, Tucson, Ariz.
- Mar. 6-9—Amarillo Fat Stock Show, Amarillo, Tex.
- Mar. 6-9—Convention Panhandle Live Stock Ass'n, Amarillo, Tex.
- Mar. 10-19—Southwestern Exposition and Fat Stock Show, Ft. Worth, Tex.
- Mar. 21-23—Convention Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers' Ass'n, Houston.

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Vol. XX January, 1939 No. 8

CALL FOR CONVENTION

To Members of the American National Live Stock Association, Affiliated Organizations, and Stockmen Generally:

CALL IS HEREBY ISSUED FOR the Forty-second Annual Convention of the American National Live Stock Association, to be held in San Francisco, California, February 15-17, 1939.

* * *

It is doubtful if there has ever been a period of greater uncertainties and potential hazards affecting the live-stock industry than has been the case during the past five years. Therefore, it is all the more gratifying to record the fact that the range cattle industry during that period has fared much better than many other branches of American agriculture which have been subjected to an extreme degree of government-supervised economic planning. It may be that there still is merit in the rugged individualism which has been the main heritage of many of those engaged in the production of live stock on the western ranges.

Stockmen from the entire range country will meet at San Francisco on February 15-17 carefully to consider the many problems confronting the industry at this time and the steps which can be taken to meet them.

It is generally recognized that the demand for beef has been relatively strong throughout this period, despite the constant millions of unemployed. This is due partly to the decreased production of pork, and increased advertising of our product by the National Live Stock and Meat Board, the Institute of American Meat Packers, the food chains, and

independent retailers certainly has been a major factor. Serious thought is now being given to plans to continue this advertising effort, and, if worked out in time, it will have a prominent place on our program.

A subcommittee of our Legislative Committee, with Albert K. Mitchell as chairman, has held several conferences on the matter during the year. Likewise attention to developments in beef grading has been given by the subcommittee at these conferences and by the full committee at its recent meeting in Chicago. The rapid growth in the demand for government graded beef, the year to date far exceeding all previous records, makes it clear that the question of whether or not beef should be graded and stamped is now a closed chapter. The question now is how it should be done. It is proposed somewhat to change and unify the government grade divisions and the divisions used by the packers in their wholesale trade. There is no requirement that the packers actually stamp their beef with the government grade names, but doing so will be much simpler under the new system, and it should cause a rapid expansion in the volume so handled. The plan will be fully explained at the convention.

One of the main reasons for calling an Executive Committee meeting in Denver last July was to consider developments in the program for eradication of Bang's disease. This program had not made much headway until 1934, when it was expanded rapidly with emergency funds, largely as a dairy cattle reduction measure. Recently efforts have been made to put the program on the same basis as the tuberculosis program, to make it generally applicable to all types of cattle, and to start area work to that end. The Legislative Committee at its recent meeting conferred with the Bang's Disease Committee of the United States Live Stock Sanitary Association and with Drs. Mohler and Wight, of the Bureau of Animal Industry. It urged that the program remain on a purely voluntary basis, that no further area work be started in the range or semi-range country, and that definite results be obtained and released as quickly as possible relative to the experiments with the vaccination method of control. Full discussion of this important subject will be had.

The convention will consider the grave implications of the continued drive by the Department of State to deprive the industry of the benefits of tariff protection, forcing it to compete on uneven terms with countries where production costs and standards of living are below those obtaining in this country. The recent further cut in the tariff on heavy cattle in the new Canadian agreement lowers the rate to 1½ cents per pound, ½ cent below the rate in effect prior to the enactment of the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act. Rumors of further agreements to come with Argentina and Aus-

tralia and intentions to lower the duties on hides and wool, to say nothing of dressed beef and dressed lamb, seem to indicate a desire on the part of Secretary Hull to make a full surrender of our markets to all who seek them. Until recently Secretary Wallace has indicated that he was in accord with this program. Belatedly he now appears to realize that, by increasing imports of agricultural products at the same time he is attempting to retard domestic production, it is making all the more difficult a satisfactory solution of the pressing farm program. There will be a growing demand for an amendment to the Reciprocal Trade Act requiring Senate confirmation of all agreements negotiated, while the tariff generally looms big on the horizon as a major issue in 1940.

One bright spot remains. The continuous and virulent outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease throughout the major part of Europe the past two years insures that the United States Senate will not ratify the Argentine sanitary convention, pending before it now for more than three and a half years.

The near collapse of the AAA program, plus the recent rejection of compulsory control by referendum of the tobacco and rice growers, makes certain that farm legislation will again be a major issue before Congress. The acceptance of control by the cotton growers does not seem significant. Their situation is so desperate that they really had no alternative. There is a growing demand for some form of domestic allotment plan. Doubtless a majority of live-stock producers would favor such a plan in preference to the present program, with its constant reduction of acreages planted to major crops but with practically no restriction upon use of otherwise idle acres in live-stock production. Such a plan would be far simpler of operation; also much less expensive. It would remove the threat of processing taxes, which have been advocated constantly by Secretary Wallace under the present acreage control measure.

During the year just passed the railroads have made two major efforts to increase freight rates on live stock. Early in the year in *Docket 123*, the general increase case, live-stock rates were increased 5 per cent, while those on most other commodities were increased twice that amount. Hearings are now being concluded on the petition of the railroads so to restrict the application of the 85 per cent rate on stockers and feeders as to make it inoperative in a great majority of cases. The live-stock industry in the West is entirely sympathetic to the railroads. It has stuck by them much better than has been the case in many other industries. But there must be a halt to rate increases, and a more fundamental approach to the ills of the railroads must be made.

Recent changes in the administration of the Taylor Grazing Act are of keen

interest to all public land users. There is a growing demand that the local advisory boards be given official sanction in the act itself and their duties outlined and defined.

There is interest in the need for adoption of a sound fiscal policy for local, state, and federal governments. Individual taxpayers can no longer ignore their direct concern in this matter. It will be discussed by one of the leading speakers on the program.

Many other matters of direct and indirect importance to the industry will be brought up. Come and help formulate the association's policy for the coming year.

F. E. MOLLIN,
Secretary.

Denver, Colorado,
December 20, 1938.

STOCKER AND FEEDER RATES

FOR MONTHS PAST THE AMERICAN National Live Stock Association, with the full co-operation of many other live-stock organizations and with a majority of the state railway commissions in the territory involved intervening on the producers' side of the case, has waged a hard fight to preserve the 85 per cent stocker and feeder freight rates. Extensive hearings have been held at great expense to all concerned.

It has been clearly shown that to the railroads the issue is simple. It is a drive for more revenue—at the expense of the live-stock industry. But the live-stock industry, subjected to a 5 per cent flat increase in rates only a few months ago, thinks the time has come to call a halt on rate increases. Some more fundamental solution of the railroads' problem must soon be found.

One of the strange features of the case is that the representatives of various stock-yards companies and live-stock exchanges who have entered the case (in some cases stock-yard companies alone and in others both yard companies and exchanges in Denver, Oklahoma City, Wichita, Kansas City, St. Joseph, Omaha, Sioux City, St. Louis, St. Paul) have not joined hands with the producers in opposing all of the further restrictions upon the application of the 85 per cent rate as suggested in the railroads' proposal. Instead they have taken a Section 3 position, alleging that they are being discriminated against at the present time because the 85 per cent rate does not apply to the markets. Should their view be accepted by the Interstate Commerce Commission the discrimination complained of under Section 3 could be removed either by extending the 85 per cent rate to the market, or by canceling it at the country points. The latter solution would mean an increase in the rates of 17.6 per cent on all shipments

that now move at the 85 per cent rate, to say nothing of increased minimums which would add a further burden. By way of contrast, the American National Live Stock Association and its associates are taking a Section 1 position, asserting that the 85 per cent rate is in itself just and reasonable and should not only be maintained on all points of present application but be extended to central markets.

The lower basis for stocker and feeder rates has been in effect in one form or another for more than fifty years. Live-stock producers have grown up with it. It has been accepted as a fixed item in transportation service. However great the need of the railroads for revenue, or however hungry the markets for business, neither group can afford to incur the ill-will of the industry that in the case of the railroads is one of the substantial sources of revenue and in the case of the stock yards the main source. There are other modes of transportation; there are other ways of marketing.

For the good of all concerned, the 85 per cent rate should immediately be restored to all points, properly policed by the Western Weighing and Inspection Bureau, and no further effort made to upset it.

THE PREFABRICATED PACTS

STRIKINGLY REVEALING THE way trade agreements are made is an *Associated Press* dispatch, under a Havana, November 29, date line, that "Colonel Fulgencia Batista, Cuba's 'strong man,' said an oral agreement had been reached for reduction of the tariff on Cuban sugar in the United States," and that "formal negotiations . . . will be started in a few days."

Colonel Batista gave out the whole dope. The present American tariff will be reduced from 90 cents a cwt. to 75 cents. In return, Louisiana rice and other American products will get entrance into Cuba.

Western cattlemen have been hitting at the government's trade treaty policy

for just the reason here suggested—that the trades are already fixed up by "experts" long before the man whose goods are being traded away gets any wind of the scheme.

To be sure, the producer is permitted to go through the formalities with the government of briefs and hearings. But that is all. If the oral agreement made over Colonel Batista's desk is changed at the request of producers in the United States, it will surprise us. The united voice of the western live-stock industry against reductions in the Canadian treaty might as well never have been raised. Cattle duties were cut about as much as they could have been. The industry can ill afford it.

Had there been proof that Secretary of State Cordell Hull's treaty policy would lead to world peace, as he assured us, many would have taken with good grace the sacrifices imposed on them. But such a peace plan was never more than a hope, and now that hope is gone. Now the treaties are being heralded as a defense in a possible war. And Secretary Hull himself urges need for preparation. It is a mix-up.

There is no certainty that tariff protection promotes war, or that free trade begets peace. The World War might be proof of just the opposite, coming as it did in the midst of a flourishing international trade.

In this dilemma, shall the Secretary of State continue to demand that domestic producers give up their markets to a cause leading toward free trade and to lower living standards? Does the American producer not have the right to keep for himself the industry that he has built up, or at least the right to democratic representation before it is traded away?

STRIKES AND MEAT PRICES

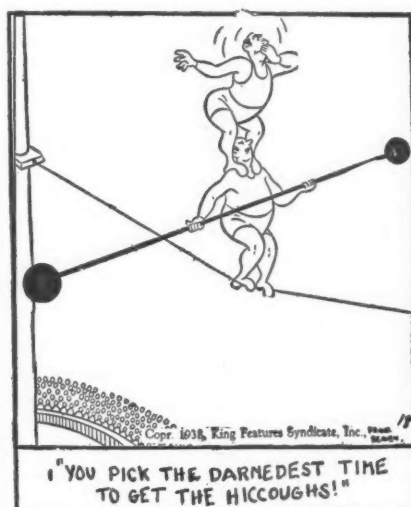
IN THE PAST A STOCK-YARDS strike has always been heralded as bringing about an acute retail situation, with threatened meat shortage and higher retail prices.

That such a situation could not long prevail in this nation under present conditions was demonstrated during the recent Chicago strike, during which retail levels of meat prices actually fell.

This simply means that there are too many outside points at which supplies can be secured for direct shipment to packing houses, and too many markets which can be called upon for supplies today, to permit any large city to be unduly penalized by a limited strike situation, unnecessary, disturbing, and actually distressing as such a strike may be to those directly affected.

All kinds of meats poured into Chicago from packing plants at interior points, and at the same time the Chicago packers were replenishing their supplies by direct country purchases.

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER



WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON NOTES

SOME OF THE JOBS FOR THE new Congress to go to work on: Farm problem, which will get considerable committee attention at the outset; the neutrality issue, which will come to the fore next May when the present law will expire by limitation; old-age-security legislation, looking toward increased allowances and additional coverage, including agricultural workers; perhaps a new government reorganization bill; the knotty rail problem; relief, which will require more money and perhaps a changed set-up.

Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace, in his annual report to the President, said that "the AAA act of 1938 and the programs in operation under it are the nation's well-matured answer to the challenge of an undisputed need for profound agricultural readjustments." He urged re-enactment of processing taxes, the "one important thing missing" from the current program; adjustment of farm output "through measures that will not drive farmers from their homes;" finding "new outlets or providing marketing controls to deal with surpluses;" stemming "increase in tenancy and increasing the equities of owner operators;" reform of local tax structures to remove "unfairly" heavy burdens on small and poor farms to encourage better land utilization. Secretary Wallace asserted economic planning is "wholly compatible with democracy," and that there is "no need to dread it as a cause of dictatorship."

Among achievements of the Department of the Interior listed in Secretary Harold L. Ickes' annual report is "the carrying forward with a harmony of purpose between stockmen and the administration of the control of grazing and the regulated use of 120,000,000 acres of public range. Advancement of this sound conservation policy is shown by the fact that during the coming year preliminary work will have been completed and temporary one-year licenses replaced by term permits of not more than ten years' duration in one grazing district in each of the ten states affected." The report says that "With the Indians increasing at twice the rate of the population as a whole, Indian land areas at the end of the fiscal year had increased to 51,540,307 acres from the 49,000,000-acre total in 1933."

Signing of a provisional commercial agreement between the United States and Greece has been announced by the Department of State. The agreement provides for nondiscriminatory treat-

ment in respect to tariff rates and other forms of trade control. . . . The department has also announced its intention to negotiate a supplemental trade agreement with Cuba. . . . Tariff negotiations with Australia and South Africa are under consideration by the Department of State. Announcement is expected shortly. . . . Congressman J. Roland Kinzer, cousin of R. J. Kinzer, secretary of the American Hereford Association, has described the new reciprocal trade treaties with Britain and Canada as "poor horse trading." "The main outline," he said, "seems to follow the pattern of the previous trade agreements, which damaged the markets of American farmers and took 31,000,000 acres out of production." He was particularly critical of the opening up of larger imports of cattle and dairy products from Canada.

George E. Farrell has been made associate director of the Division of Marketing and Marketing Agreements. Mr. Farrell has been active in the administration of AAA wheat programs, as chief of the AAA wheat section, director of the Division of Grains, and director of the western division of the AAA. C. C. Conser, who has been assistant director of the AAA western division, has been named acting director. . . . Rufus R. Clarke, vice-president and secretary of the Federal Land Bank of Columbia, South Carolina, has been named a deputy governor of the FCA. He will be associated with operations of the Land Bank Division and Federal Farm Mortgage Corporation, the two units having supervision over the FCA's lending activities in the long-term farm mortgage field. . . . Elmer A. Starch has been named co-ordinator of programs for the Department of Agriculture in the northern Great Plains. Mr. Starch is at present with the extension service of Montana State College. It will be his job to co-ordinate programs of the Department of Agriculture with the agricultural programs of colleges, conservation boards, and other state agencies in Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Wyoming. . . . Replacing R. H. Rutledge, who recently became grazing director under the Taylor Grazing Act, is C. N. Woods, long associated with Mr. Rutledge at the Ogden Forest Service office. Mr. Woods will be acting regional forester of the intermountain district.

Generally, the 1939 AAA range program is little different from the 1938 program. The practices set up for earning the AAA payment are about the same as in 1938 with the deferred grazing practice being the principal one. . . . The 1939 farm program is quite similar to the 1938 plan. Changes made in that program were only those that were con-

sidered necessary because of different crop conditions or which experience has shown would simplify administration. . . . Returns on the cotton, tobacco, and rice referenda held in December on the question of marketing quotas for these crops for 1939 showed that farmers voted in favor of marketing quotas for cotton, and against marketing quotas for tobacco and rice.

Secretary Wallace announces that the four regional research laboratories, authorized by the last Congress to search for new industrial outlets for agricultural commodities, will be located in Peoria, Illinois; New Orleans, Louisiana; the Philadelphia area; and San Francisco Bay area. The western region laboratory to be built in the San Francisco Bay area will serve Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. First study on the program at the western laboratory will have to do with wheat, potatoes, alfalfa, vegetables, and fruits (other than apples).

Under the Farm Security Administration medical service plan, 78,000 low-income farm families in twenty states are obtaining medical care from physicians of their own choice by making payments ranging in most of the states between \$20 and \$30 a year into a com-



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mon fund. FSA officials report that physicians are, in general, pleased with the program. The program is being put into effect only after understandings are reached with state and local medical associations.

* * *

As a supplement to existing public and private agencies in the farm mortgage field, Federal Housing Administration has in preparation a plan to extend its insured lending activities from the urban home into the farmlands. The plan aims particularly at farms which are operated on a part-time basis, where owners have extra employment—a field which has been overlooked in the home financing program.

* * *

Fall pig crop is reported by the government at 18 per cent larger than last year. Total spring and fall crop is 15 per cent over a year ago. The pig increase is general in all parts of the country, with a big increase noted in the South and another big increase in the Corn Belt. Sows farrowing next year will be 21 per cent up from last year.

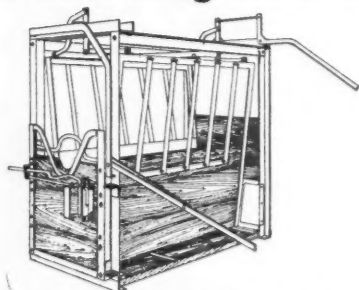
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Final crop estimate for the season is given by federal experts as follows (000 omitted):

	1938 (Preliminary)	1937 (Production)
Corn (bu.)	2,542,238	2,651,284
Wheat, All (bu.)	930,801	875,676
Oats (bu.)	1,053,839	1,161,612
Barley (bu.)	252,139	220,327
Rye (bu.)	55,039	49,830
Grain Sorghums (bu.)	100,816	97,679
Tame Hay (tons)	80,299	73,449
Wild Hay (tons)	10,444	9,168
Potatoes (bu.)	369,297	394,139
Cotton (bales)	12,008	18,946
Soy Beans (bu.)*	57,665	45,272

*Crop harvested only for beans.

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MARKETS

LIVE STOCK MARKET CONDITIONS

BY JAMES E. POOLE

FAT-CATTLE TRADE WENT INTO the new year, following a period of violent weekly mutations in which cheap poultry and pork coupled with labor disturbances were factors, with a somewhat uncertain prospect, at least for the January-to-March period. Premature liquidations of high-cost stock and feeding steers contributed to sharp declines, especially on medium grades, which comprised the bulk of supply at Chicago, Kansas City, and Omaha. Long-fed bullocks practically disappeared, although \$13 to \$13.50 were legitimate quotations. Finished yearlings forged into the high-price bracket; plain and rough heavies were severely penalized, New York buyers discriminating against them. Low yields and dark-cutting beef made killers suspicious of merely warmed-up steers with which they were surfeited. With prime steers selling at \$13 to \$13.25, thousands of light, unfinished cattle sold at \$8 to \$9.25, the weekly list of sales disclosing few above \$12. On the other hand, low-cost steers, under \$8, were scarce and sold readily. Warmed-up heifers were in profuse supply, top and bottom grades scarce, heifers over \$9.50 and under \$7 getting action, while middle grades were punished, especially when killers had access to a few more than needed. Culling dairy herds filled the hopper with \$4 to \$5.50 cows, western cows disappearing, which made for a ragged butcher market.

Stock-cattle values were maintained up to the last round, eleventh-hour buyers who had impatiently awaited a bargain sale either going short of their requirements or switching to 800- to 1,100-pound warmed-up steers for which they paid anywhere from \$8 to \$10, a dollar break in December making these purchases logical. Country demand was a supporting influence on the decline. Western calves would have repeated the season's high prices had they been available. Old-style common red native stock cattle were also in demand to the extent of a limited supply, drought and expansion of the dairy industry putting them in the vanishing category. Feeders and cannery operators were greedy for something costing anywhere from \$6.50 to \$7.50.

Havoc from Strike

The Chicago stock-yard handlers' strike played havoc with price evaluation. Minus market quotations, country buying went wild. Eastern shippers acquired thousands of steers during the interim, and at railroad yards contiguous to Chicago mushroom markets developed, recalling the pre-central market period when Chicago had half a dozen trading

points whereat prices varied 50 cents to \$1 per cwt. on the same day—a condition necessitating consolidation.

Packers, apprehensive that the strike would involve their plants and in an effort to reload beef-rails, bought heavily in the country; consequently, when trading was resumed at the market, they were loaded with a two-day kill, preventing resumption of trade on a normal basis until this grist was disposed of. Meanwhile the country, assuming that resumption was merely a truce, overloaded the market with short-feds, facilitating a dollar break, urgent demand concerning only the relatively few long-fed steers and yearlings good enough for eastern trade. The significance of this was that beef is moving promptly into distributive channels, coolers are promptly cleared, and that even a brief interruption to the regular order develops urgent replenishment needs.

Now that the poultry season is over, meat consumption will be resumed. Each year avian food, especially turkey, becomes a more serious competitor with meat from Thanksgiving to Christmas. This year turkey undersold beef at 25 to 30 cents per pound, dressed. Retailers and restaurateurs pushed it persistently, and 12- to 14-cent pork loins, wholesale, seriously contracted buying of other meats. During the Chicago strike, interior packers flooded eastern urban markets with pork loins, creating a glut and breaking the market on themselves. Undoubtedly cheap pork contributed to the semi-debacle.

Some Dark Beef Disclosed

Cattle trade entered the new year with ill-concealed supply pressure. Killers were finicky, buying on a hand-to-mouth basis and persistently side-stepping dubious offerings as dressing sheets disclosed low yields and dark-beef color. As the winter works along this handicap will disappear, cattle showing evidence of more corn. A mass of cattle—steers and heifers—fed short grain rations with maximum consumption of soy bean and other hay has already been dislodged, the product meeting sales resistance. Light 850- to 1,050-pound cattle selling in an \$8 to \$9 range have been conspicuous; also plain and even rough two-year-olds weighing 1,100 to 1,300 pounds short-routed to the killing beds. Spreads between plain and prime heavy bullocks are wide, the former selling as low as \$9.50; many at \$9.75 to \$10.50 that were apparently good enough for any trade. Always yearlings get the play, indicating the trend of beef consumption, long-fed 950- to 1,050-pounders changing hands promptly at \$12 to \$13 merely because of scarcity. November depleted supplies of long-fed steers; December developed actual scarcity—a logical result of the profitable market previously. Occasionally a qualified one-

day supply reported; usually killer complaint was justified. A larger percentage of choice Angus steers reported this season than recently, although Herefords were in a decided majority.

Beef-house bosses are unduly particular; buyers are having the time of their lives explaining errors in judgment. Consumers are capricious, turning down dark cutting meat with both thumbs. Killers investigating supply sources put responsibility on free use of soy bean hay and grass, pastures continuing green until early in the winter.

Choice heifers, long-fed, selling at \$10 to \$10.75 are as scarce as top steers and will continue to be for several months. Feeders, unloading short-feds, ran into an \$8 to \$8.75 market, at which they kicked vigorously, especially when their property did not get over the scales until the short supply of "snipes," costing \$6.50 to \$7.25, had changed hands. Contrariwise, cow trade is in a bad rut, few dairy cows beating \$5.75, although fat westerns realized \$6.50 to \$7. Demand for sausage and "Hamburger" material made a steady outlet for canning and cutting grades at \$4 to \$5.25; also any type of bull selling anywhere from \$5.50 to \$7.

Four-Year Low for Hogs

Hogs broke precipitously to the lowest level in four years, packers making good their promise to put up Chicago droves around \$7 per cwt. in December. In fact, they bought heavy butchers exceeding 300 pounds at \$6.80 to \$6.90. Slaughter continued heavy, indicating, to Packingtown at least, continuance during January and February, as weight is penalized 50 to 75 cents per cwt. and the residue of the 1937 spring crop is accumulating avoidupois, sending 160- to 200-pound shoats to premium. That the crop is numerically greater than the last and will deliver vastly more tonnage is an open secret. However, an impression exists that a larger percentage will have been processed by mid-February than usual, as growers are apprehensive of weight penalization. Lard, a notorious bad actor from a commercial standpoint, is accumulating, while stocks of meat are low. Broad interior demand for stock pigs at prices \$2 to \$2.50 per cwt. above current quotations on finished hogs means that converting corn into pork is highly profitable and that pigs are scarce, practically none reaching the markets.

Big packers are acquiring a large percentage of their hogs in the country. Their smaller competitors grab the bulk at public markets, but on every 10- to 15-cent break the Big Three puts buyers into action. Eastern shipping demand increased 100 per cent during February, indicative of a broad fresh-meat consumption, as it centered on weights below 210 pounds. An advance of \$1 per cwt. in hogs would be of material assistance in vending beef.

Live-mutton trade is erratic. During the Chicago strike, choice fed westerns

realized \$9.75 to \$10 at interior points for Chicago delivery, on a restricted scale. When the barrier was raised, furnishing killers with easier picking, the market declined gradually to an \$8.75 to \$9 basis, short-feds selling at \$8.25 to \$8.50, or on a parity with finished shorn stock. The same disposition to cash short-fed lambs is shown as in the case of cattle, feeders taking profits resulting from cheap gains. Fed Texas yearlings at \$7.25 to \$7.75, northern-bred yearlings at \$7.50 to \$8, sell close to lambs, as they serve the same purpose on the block.

Feeding lambs closed at the high point of the season, or \$8.25 to \$8.60, few orders being filled. The entire eastern section of the Corn Belt clamored for thin lambs that could not be had, orders accumulating on commission house spindles.

LIVE STOCK AND ITS PROSPECTS

BY JAMES E. POOLE

EATING INTO THE 1939 BEEF supply, prematurely, will not be seriously disputed. Thousands of feeders are merely scalping, lacking confidence in the immediate future and taking profits on the theory that a bird in the hand is good property. This was done during the first quarter of 1938; repetition is somewhat earlier this season. Back in the hinterland consensus is that 1938 prices for fat cattle will not be repeated in 1939. Optimism redolent on the printed page gets scant credence. Unemployment statistics and official assurance of increasing consumptive demand fall on deaf ears. Feeders show a pronounced disposition to "copper" their bets. Maybe they are wrong; later developments in 1938 demonstrated that possibility.

At how high a figure the new crop of cattle was laid in is a subject for conjecture. A large percentage finally changed hands at interior auction and private sales where accurate evaluation disappeared. At the central markets, where country speculators operated freely, cost was high enough to generate concern when the fat-cattle market went into a nose dive toward the close of the year. Having acquired steers on that basis, owners are nervous, ignoring cheap gains in an effort to recover invested capital. Every steer liquidated at this juncture means one less later, as winter replacement, except on a limited scale, is impossible. Formerly cheap feed held cattle back. That rule has now been definitely reversed.

Gains at Lowest Cost

Nothing but the profit motive inspires a feeder to acquire a drove of steers, install them in the feed-lot sixty to ninety days, then order trucks or cars. He figures that he can get two

prices for his feed, and is apprehensive of what the future has in store, ignoring the fact that replacement is impossible at the selling price. Open weather during November and December made big gains at the lowest cost on record, measured by realization prices. Instances of mature steers gaining 2.75 to 3 pounds daily in the dry-lot are reported; younger cattle on grass have gained 1.5 pounds, a large drove of yearlings on the *Chicago Tribune* farm near Chicago gaining 1.9 pounds daily over a 120-day period on blue grass with a modicum of silage. Naturally, feeders are anxious to avoid running into shrinky weather, inevitable after a mild season, and when in doubt they ship their cattle out. Temporarily, at least, this policy has exerted a semi-demoralizing influence.

This season in-and-out feeders were conspicuous in market stocker alleys and country sales. Beef-making became a furore. Single and pieces of loads decorated the landscape, and, as usual, these cattle are in weak hands. When they realize initial cost, plus a big price for grain consumed, they are for sale. Liquidation will run its course probably within ninety days; the weak sisters will be eliminated and prices react. This happened early in 1938. What happened later is an open secret, the market going on a highly profitable basis. In fact, regular feeders made more net money than on the boom market of 1936, prior to the December crash of that year. During a six-month period of 1938 short-fed cattle rolled up bank deposits for which western grass beef scarcity and cheap corn were mainly responsible. Markets rarely repeat the previous year's performance, but the rule is mutable.

Unpredictable Factor

An unpredictable factor is the proportion of light cattle moved into the Corn Belt that will not figure in beef supply during the first half of 1939. That a considerable percentage was acquired for winter roughing to consume feed valueless otherwise is an accepted

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fact. Beef-makers realize that no stock cattle bargains are on the horizon, that growing calves and light yearlings out is profitable, and that a rise of grass next spring will be worthless without something to eat it. Many feeders intend to get cheap pasture growth next summer to short-feed them when new corn is ready. All the preachment from authoritative sources counsels this operation. Only a modicum of long-fed steers can be utilized at high prices. Had any considerable number of the type realizing \$12.50 to \$13.50 recently been available they would have cashed \$1 to \$1.50 lower.

When current liquidation runs its course, the cattle purchase made east of the Missouri River since last September will be in strong hands. Corn shows an advancing tendency. Every bushel sealed for the government loan is definitely off the market but in the visible supply. The gob of "government corn," residue of the 1937 crop, has not been entirely disposed of, and all through the belt a disposition to hold unsealed corn for more money is in evidence. Free corn may go to 50 cents per bushel. When and if it does, the movement will substantially swell. At that price cattle may be fed along with reasonable assurance of profit in the finality of the operation, regardless of initial cost. Logical assumption is that the moment the weak-sister element is out the fat-cattle market will become stable at higher prices, possibly sufficient to pay two prices for the board bill.

Next Year's Production

Beef production in 1939 is not expected to exceed that of last year. Marketing policies will exert a potent influence on values. Feeders may break or make the market, as consumption is regular and the line between sufficiency and excess narrow. Production would have been substantially swelled had the necessary raw material been available. As it was, hundreds of regular feeders did not get their normal quota; some went into the winter with empty plants. At the eleventh hour, when the pilgrimage from the western storehouse dwindled, the slogan "get cattle" intensified. Pennsylvania feeders went on a still-hunt in every nook and cranny of western Canada, acquiring steers that cost around \$7.50, laid down. St. Boniface, the Winnipeg market, was a Mecca for Corn Belt operators, who paid \$4.50 to \$4.75 for steers weighing 750 to 900 pounds, duty, freight and other expenses putting laid-down cost well above \$7. Alberta and Saskatchewan could have sold 75,000 head on this basis; but demand disclosed actual scarcity—a drought sequence in that quarter. All over the trans-Missouri region owners either sold up closely or decided to winter their property, conscious of the security of their position.

A debatable problem is economy in selling calves at weaning time. Theoretically, at least, carrying babies into

the yearling stage—an operation for which feed is indispensable—produces more net revenue even though yearlings realize less per pound. This year many calves were retained, from Texas to Montana, steers to get growth on grass next summer, heifers to recuperate cow herds. A broad trade both in calves and yearlings, to stay at home, developed in Texas. In northern latitudes this policy was imperative, the alternative being going out of the cattle business. The entire western arm of the industry is tackling an urgent rehabilitation task, which is not to be accomplished in a single year, as the production cycle is long. Realization of depletion in Wyoming, the Dakotas, and Montana is dawning. Physical conditions are excellent over much of this area, although insect pests are still detrimental, especially in both Dakotas, where the cattle business is definitely "shot," without a remote prospect of early recuperation.

Eastern Development Unimportant

Feeders, everywhere, are nursing no illusion, realizing that cheap stockers figure in history. Such expansion of beef cattle breeding as may develop east of the Missouri River during the next half decade will not acquire sufficient volume materially to influence beef supply. Even should it reach a total of 500,000 calves annually, which is improbable, every animal will go to the killer as baby beef, insuring light tonnage.

By the time cattle gathering begins west of the Missouri River in 1939 the great bulk of steers and calves moved into the Corn Belt in 1938 will have disappeared in the capacious maw of the consumer. Winter replacement will be light; an early rise of grass will develop fresh clamor for cattle. In fact, an all-winter market would be assured if a supply were available. Between grass, grain sorghums, and short terms in the feed-lot, beef-makers are less dependent on corn than formerly. Stalk fields are garnered more closely, molasses and commercial feeds are in repute, and hay, alfalfa, and other silage flavored with molasses are popular mutations of stereotyped practices. Nebraska's success with Atlas Sargo promises to spread that acreage, especially as drought insurance, which is periodically needed everywhere. Facing higher replacement cost, cattle feeders are wrestling with a gain cost reduction problem. Short terms in the feed-lot, marketing at less weight, will mean shorter beef tonnage and require more cattle. Gambling in aged steers will be a game for comparatively few.

Lamb Stocks Low

Lamb feeders went into the winter with short stocks compared with the gob they acquired a year ago. Their mid-summer strike availed them nothing, as western breeders stood pat, packers meanwhile filling their coolers with half-fat, heavy lambs, 70 pounds or more,

that went into immediate consumption, although demoralizing the dressed market over a prolonged period. A 25 per cent reduction means a healthy winter market, with occasional semibare spots. Early purchased lambs went to killers freely in November and December, shortening the mid-winter supply to that extent, and at no time was congestion in distributive channels evident. The 1938 lamb crop was one of the largest on record. With favorable winter and spring physical conditions, it will be repeated, if not swelled, as retention of ewe lambs and yearlings was pronounced in the Northwest, and Texas carried over a full house. Lambs may be short east of the Missouri River, but ewe bands have multiplied, the soil conservation campaign being largely responsible, as it provides farmers with free feed to the extent of the acreage embraced. This involves an enormous area, including the Corn Belt proper, the Middle South, and the Far East. Getting into the sheep or lamb business involves little capital outlay and gives returns on two crops, wool and lambs, within a short year of the investment. It is easy money for the farmer—practically all net profit—as the outlay other than initial cost of the ewe band is labor, rough feed, and grass. Soil conservation, meaning pasture, may not be a serious menace to western commercial cattle breeders; sheepmen are in a less secure position.

HIDE MARKET SHOWS ADVANCING TENDENCY

BY J. E. P.

BOTH SPOT AND FUTURE HIDE markets are closely sold on September-to-November take-off in a range of 11 to 12 cents per pound. Extra light native steers are in demand at 12 cents; October and November heavy Texas and butt-branded steers are getting the same money. June-to-November cows are worth 11 to 11½ cents. Country hides are firm at 10 cents for 43- to 58-pound buff-weights; 8¾ cents for all-weights.

Shoe output is running ahead of the corresponding period of 1937, although retail trade has failed to keep pace with production. Wholesale trade in spring shoes is hampered by the new scale of prices set by manufacturers.

Following the buying spurt in sole and upper leather last August, when tanners booked orders up to February delivery, new business has waned, but tanners are operating close to full capacity, delivering a heavy poundage. To maintain this output, new orders will be necessary. Current leather prices depend on booking additional business.

An encouraging phase is activity in hide futures markets, buying developing on every half-cent break. Shoe dealers and manufacturers are at loggerheads. When mutually satisfactory prices can

be arranged, shelves will be replenished.

Opinion in tanning circles is conservatively bullish. Supplies of cattle hides here and abroad are not excessive, the increase last fall and winter having been eliminated. Visible domestic supplies are below the corresponding period of 1938 and at a new low for the seventeen years on record. Indications are that domestic tanners will encounter keen competition on Argentine and other hides and that imports will not be burdensome.

FORECAST OF INCREASED CATTLE FEEDING CONFIRMED

EXPECTATION THAT THE NUMBER of cattle to be fed during the 1938-39 feeding season will be somewhat larger than in 1937-38 is borne out by developments during November, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reports.

Supplies of feed grains, hay, and roughage in nearly all the Corn Belt states are large and prices of feeds show little tendency to advance. The demand for cattle to help utilize this feed has strengthened. November saw a large movement of stocker and feeder cattle into the Corn Belt at the highest level of seasonal prices in eight years. During July to November the total shipments of stocker and feeder cattle from stock-yards markets into the Corn Belt were about 4 per cent larger this year than last. Direct movement also has been considerably larger.

In the western states fewer cattle will be fed. Largest decreases are indicated for California and Colorado, the two leading cattle feeding states in this group. Although feed supplies are generally abundant and low in price in nearly all these states, high prices of feeder cattle and the rather unfavorable returns from last year's feeding operations have tended to hold down feeding this year.

July-November shipments of feeder cattle into the Lancaster feeding area of Pennsylvania and Maryland were somewhat below the heavy shipments a year earlier. Indications also point to some decrease in cattle feeding in both Texas and Oklahoma.

FEEDSTUFFS PRICES

Cottonseed cake and meal was quoted on December 21 at \$24 a ton, f. o. b. Texas points. Hay prices, carlot, on December 16, at Omaha, were: Alfalfa—choice leafy, \$13.50 to \$14.50; No. 1, \$12.50 to \$13; standard leafy, \$11.50 to \$12.50; standard, \$10.50 to \$11.50; No. 2, \$9 to \$10; No. 3, \$7.50 to \$8; upland prairie—No. 1, \$9 to \$10; No. 2, \$8 to \$9; No. 3, \$7 to \$7.50; midland prairie—No. 1, \$8.50 to \$9; No. 2, \$7 to \$8; mixed—No. 1, \$9 to \$10; No. 2, \$8 to \$9; No. 3, \$7 to \$7.50.

CHICAGO LIVE STOCK PRICES

	Dec. 15, 1938	Nov. 15, 1938	Dec. 1, 1937
Slaughter Steers—Ch. (1,100-1,500 lbs.)	\$11.00-12.75	\$10.75-12.75	\$13.00-15.50
Slaughter Steers—Good	9.00-11.25	9.00-11.25	9.00-13.50
Slaughter Steers—Ch. (900-1,100 lbs.)	10.50-12.25	10.75-12.25	12.00-14.25
Slaughter Steers—Good	9.00-11.00	8.75-10.75	8.25-13.00
Slaughter Steers—Med. (750-1,300 lbs.)	7.25- 9.00	7.25- 9.00	7.25- 9.50*
Fed Young Steers—Gd.-Ch. (550-900 lbs.)	8.25-11.50	8.75-11.50	8.00-12.75
Heifers—Good-Choice	8.25-11.25	8.75-11.25	7.00-11.00
Cows—Good	6.00- 6.50	6.25- 7.00	6.00- 7.00
Vealers—Good-Choice	7.50- 9.50	9.00-11.00
Calves—Good-Choice	6.00- 7.50	6.75- 8.50	6.50-10.50
Feeder and Stocker Steers—Good-Choice	7.50- 9.00	7.50-10.00	6.75- 8.50
Feeder and Stocker Steers—Com.-Med.	6.25- 7.75	6.25- 7.75	5.25- 7.00
Hogs—Medium Weights (200-250 lbs.)	7.00- 7.45	7.60- 7.75	8.20- 8.45
Yearling Wethers—Good-Choice	6.75- 7.75	6.65- 7.75
Lambs—Good-Choice	8.40- 9.00	8.40- 9.25	8.10- 9.50
Feeding Lambs (range)—Good-Choice	7.65- 8.50	7.75- 8.50
Ewes—Good-Choice	3.75- 4.25	3.65- 4.10	4.00- 4.75

*900 lbs. up.

CHICAGO WHOLESALE WESTERN DRESSED MEAT PRICES

	Dec. 15, 1938	Nov. 15, 1938	Dec. 1, 1937
FRESH BEEF AND VEAL—			
Steers—Choice (700 lbs. up)	\$16.00-18.00	\$17.00-18.50	\$18.50-21.50
Steers—Good	14.00-16.00	15.00-17.00	14.50-18.50
Steers—Choice (500-700 lbs.)	16.00-18.00	17.00-18.50	16.00-21.00
Steers—Good	14.00-16.00	15.00-17.00	13.00-17.50
Yearling Steers—Choice	16.00-18.00	17.00-18.50	15.50-18.50
Yearling Steers—Good	14.00-16.00	15.00-17.00	13.00-15.50
Cows—Good	11.50-12.00	12.00-13.00	12.00-13.00
Vealers—Choice	14.00-16.00	16.50-18.00	15.50-16.50
Vealers—Good	12.50-14.00	14.50-16.50	14.50-15.50
FRESH LAMB AND MUTTON—			
Lambs—Choice (all weights)	15.50-17.00	17.50-19.00	19.00-20.00*
Lambs—Good	14.50-16.00	17.00-18.00	18.00-19.00
Ewes—Good	8.00- 9.00	8.00- 9.00	9.00-10.00
FRESH PORK CUTS—			
Loins—8-12 lb. average	12.50-14.00	17.50-18.50	16.00-18.00

*45 lbs. down.

HOLDINGS OF FROZEN AND CURED MEATS

Commodity in Pounds	Dec. 1, 1938†	Nov. 1, 1938	Dec. 1, 1937	5-Year Av.
Frozen beef	37,732,000	28,019,000	41,179,000	78,076,000
Cured beef*	15,030,000	13,199,000	12,562,000	21,052,000
Lamb and mutton	3,073,000	2,606,000	2,286,000	4,194,000
Frozen pork	72,689,000	51,540,000	64,996,000	97,202,000
Dry salt pork*	35,043,000	34,901,000	38,509,000	49,563,000
Pickled pork*	188,868,000	165,204,000	203,125,000	278,157,000
Miscellaneous	53,744,000	50,268,000	50,546,000	75,103,000
Total meats	406,179,000	345,737,000	413,203,000	603,347,000
Lard	72,281,000	67,667,000	33,966,000	80,108,000
Frozen poultry	117,837,000	77,692,000	108,746,000	108,202,000
Creamery butter	158,872,000	194,285,000	66,191,000	89,241,000
Eggs (case equivalent)	3,673,000	5,938,000	6,127,000	4,807,000

*Cured or in process of cure. †Subject to revision.

LIVE STOCK AT STOCK YARDS

	November 1938	November 1937	First Eleven Months 1938	First Eleven Months 1937
RECEIPTS—				
Cattle*	1,299,634	1,465,785	13,081,105	14,021,544
Calves	600,481	666,350	6,092,454	6,771,449
Hogs	2,607,209	2,322,667	22,231,329	20,078,060
Sheep	1,945,049	1,785,163	24,046,041	23,336,076
TOTAL SHIPMENTS†—				
Cattle*	656,313	700,902	5,580,943	6,018,562
Calves	270,469	277,343	2,328,623	2,344,573
Hogs	690,844	648,718	6,229,822	5,846,417
Sheep	968,288	890,865	11,884,691	11,968,156
STOCKER AND FEEDER SHIPMENTS—				
Cattle*	362,868	371,507	2,712,041	2,704,106
Calves	110,325	89,561	593,500	529,545
Hogs	32,612	29,435	378,905	355,883
Sheep	414,962	351,829	3,211,899	3,190,106
SLAUGHTERED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION—				
Cattle*	858,187	855,835	9,018,470	9,210,109
Calves	457,299	467,994	5,074,392	5,829,210
Hogs	3,913,289	3,294,747	31,840,331	27,683,684
Sheep	1,452,966	1,321,269	16,712,714	15,867,338

*Exclusive of calves. †Includes stockers and feeders.

HEALTHIER UNDERTONE IN WOOL TRADE

BY J. E. P.

WOOL TRADE SHOWS A healthier undertone than recently, bright fleeces selling at 28 to 31 cents in the grease, fine delaine at 29 to 31 cents, half blood at 31 to 33 cents, three-eighths at 31 to 33½ cents, and quarter blood at 31 to 32 cents. January inventory taking over a heavier sales volume is expected. However, nobody in the trade is predicting substantially higher prices. Few holders are in a mood to make concessions.

Territory wools in original bags are moving in fair volume. French combing length is quoted at 65 to 66 cents, scoured; average to short length fine territory wools in original bags, at 62 to 64 cents. Around 60 cents is the popular price for original bag lines of bulk clothing length fine territory wools. Graded territory wools, including staple clothing length half blood, are going at 66 to 68 cents; combing, three-eighths blood, at 59 to 61 cents; and combing, quarter blood, at 54 to 56 cents.

Fair quality, twelve-months Texas wools are selling at 66 to 68 cents, good original bag lines being firmly held at 69 to 70 cents. Fall Texas wools are not moving freely at 54 to 56 cents.

Mill Operation Expanded

Wool mill operations have expanded since the dull October period was passed, but substantial orders for men's spring lines will keep worsted mills running until mid-February. Fabric prices have advanced to a basis about 10 per cent lower than a year ago.

Optimism in wool-growing circles is perennial; next year is always a lumi-

nous prospect. Favorable factor is moderate or light stocks in dealers' hands. Much of the wool bought last spring was taken by mills, and no secret is made of the fact that mill stocks are moderate. Automobile business is picking up, and government orders are placed at frequent intervals. As the market is on a foreign importing parity, it is probable that manufacturers will use domestic in preference to foreign product.

Result of Treaty

Opinion differs as to the result of the British treaty. The wool expert of the First National Bank of Boston takes this view:

"The new schedule of duties is graduated to facilitate imports of expensive cloth in preference to coarser fabrics. The ad valorem duty on goods having a British value above \$2 per pound has been lowered more than 40 per cent, but the bulk of our domestic production is in lines which are faced with a 20 per cent drop. That the burden of this decline must be borne by the worsted mills is suggested, however, by the significant provision that any future lowering of our tariff on raw wool such as is being considered in our current negotiations with Australia will automatically be translated into an equivalent further reduction in our tariff on wool goods. Woolen mills, on the other hand, are favored by a substantial cut in our duty on noils and wastes to offset partially the lowering of the tariff on woolen fabrics."

Until the next heavyweight season, imported fabrics will cut a wide swath in the domestic market. Meanwhile mills will, naturally, limit purchases of raw stock to immediate requirements. Domestic prices are about 10 per cent above the June low point. Speculative interest in next spring's domestic clip is not in evidence.

Washington palliates treaty effects by contending that tariff reductions on British production create no competition on the bulk of domestic wools or manufacturers; also that the duty of \$3.40 per pound, clean content, remains.

That no marked advance on domestic wools is probable until foreign markets rise is accepted.

That the domestic carryover into the 1939 season—April 1—will be lighter than at the corresponding period of 1938 is a favorable circumstance, but domestic growers are of the opinion that the British treaty is adverse to their welfare.

FORECAST SHOWS TOTAL LAMB FEEDING REDUCED

THE LAMB FEEDING SITUATION

Ton December 1 appeared somewhat different from that of early November. December 1 probability, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, was that as many lambs would be fed in the Corn Belt this season as last—perhaps more than last year. Some reduction in the area was indicated in earlier reports. Considerable reduction in western states, however, will keep the total number fed below that of last season.

Change in the Corn Belt situation resulted from a relatively heavy movement of feeder lambs into the section in November, both from stock-yards markets and direct, and a very heavy direct movement in the latter half of October.

In the West, Colorado indications were for a decrease of about 15 per cent, with most of the reduction in northern Colorado. A small increase was expected in Montana and decreases in Wyoming and New Mexico. In the states west of the Continental Divide, not including Idaho, a decrease of about 15 per cent, equal to about 90,000 head, was reported. The number in Utah and Oregon was smaller and in California and Nevada larger, with little change in Washington. Information pointed to a considerable reduction in Idaho. Failure of wheat pastures over much of Texas decreased the number there.

BETTER CONSUMER DEMAND FOR FARM PRODUCTS

ON THE BASIS OF A RISE IN industrial activity and consumer purchasing power in recent months the Bureau of Agricultural Economics sees an improvement in consumer demand for farm products.

The sharp rise in industrial production in latter half of 1938 was said to be a result of increases in the output of automobiles, textiles, and other consumer goods. A marked pick-up in building activity was cited, but the bureau said "the general improvement in the busi-

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ness situation has not yet been reflected in any large expansion of other capital goods."

It was stated that "operations in the automobile and steel industries show evidence of approaching the limit of immediate expansion;" that "little or no further increase in these important lines can be looked for during the next several months."

The bureau sees in the foreign situation continuation of "an unusual degree of uncertainty," with the fall in the value of the pound sterling "the most striking development in the past month." United States exports of agricultural products during the seasonally heavy months of September and October were "disappointing." The decline was principally in exports of cotton.

Slaughter supplies of hogs, the bureau said, probably will decrease seasonally in late winter and early spring, but the supplies will continue larger than a year earlier. Increased marketings of grain-fed cattle in the first half of 1939 were again indicated, although total marketings of cattle are expected to be smaller than in the first half of 1938. Reports indicate that fewer lambs will be fed this season as contrasted with the near-record number fed in the 1937-38 season.

SANITARY REGULATIONS

(Continued from page 11)

read to extend to other cases. The expression of purpose so to limit the exertion of state power strongly suggests that Congress intended not otherwise to trammel the enforcement of state quarantine measures. Much weight is to be given to the practical interpretation of the act by the federal department through its acquiescence in the enforcement of state measures to suppress Bang's disease."

The court then distinguished the case of *Oregon-Washington Railroad and Navigation Company vs. Washington* (270 U. S. 87, 70 L. Ed. 482) by stating that "in the other case the plant quarantine act covered the whole field of regulations so far as the spread of plant diseases by interstate transportation could be affected or restrained." It is thus apparent that a slight extension of federal authority in regard to the interstate transportation of live stock and the prevention of the spread of disease through such transportation or a slight extension by the Secretary of Agriculture of the exercise of powers given him under existing statutes would render invalid practically all state regulations of restricting the movement of live stock into such states from other states.

This association has in the past proposed that unification of state laws and regulations be accomplished by providing that they shall be valid and enforceable only after approval by the Secretary of Agriculture. This, of

course, would be one method of handling the situation; but it is self-evident that the Secretary of Agriculture for political reasons and otherwise might find it distasteful to take upon himself the exercise of authority conferred in that fashion. It would doubtless be much simpler to get legislation through Congress giving paramount authority to the Secretary of Agriculture, as under the original plant quarantine act.

Regulations Imperiled

State regulatory authorities should bear it in mind that, not only do non-uniform, unwise, unnecessary, or unwarranted restrictions on interstate movement of live stock as distinguished from intrastate shipment or sale impose hardships upon farmers residing in the state which establishes such regulations, but they imperil from a legal standpoint the entire structure of state live-stock sanitary regulation. The only result of such regulations will be to compel complete federal control of live-stock sanitation in so far as it is affected by interstate transportation and abolition of all state authority in that field. The live-stock industry may be forced to that alternative, but it hopes that state control may be continued under sound, sensible regulations, as simple and as uniform as it is practical to make them under the different situations that arise in the different states.

It is in the light of that wish and desire and to assist in reaching that objective that I take this opportunity on my own initiative and responsibility of making the following suggestions. Imperfect though they may be in both content and scope, I feel that their adoption would go far to restore the confidence of the rank and file of live-stock breeders in the efficacy of state live-

stock sanitary regulation affecting interstate shipments.

1. As to regulations designed to protect against tuberculosis, Texas fever, and foot-and-mouth disease in cattle, against Glanders in horses, and against pullorum disease in poultry, state regulations should conform to the Bureau of Animal Industry regulations. These have been drafted by capable and experienced men for the sole purpose of controlling and eradicating these live-stock diseases. As to these diseases, state regulations should go no further than the existing federal regulation. If origin in modified accredited areas is sufficient for the Bureau of Animal Industry, it should satisfy state authorities everywhere.

2. As to Bang's disease, the import restrictions established by states should presently go no further than the restrictions recommended in the form of uniform regulations by the report of the Committee on Unification of Laws and Regulations of this association approved by the association in 1931. All extra, superficial regulations such as the testing of range steers for tuberculosis and Bang's disease or the testing of cattle brought into a state wholly for feeding or slaughtering purposes should be abolished, as well as the requirement of some states that imported animals must come from accredited herds.

3. Forms for reporting the existence of conditions permitting import of live stock should be standardized as among all states and greatly simplified. Duplicate reports where now required should be eliminated. I have particularly in mind requirements that demand, where live stock is shipped from public federally supervised markets into a state, not only the Federal Form 48B, but also a certificate from state regulatory officials. The information in F. I. Form 48B, which is furnished by federal authorities at supervised markets, duplicates that contained in the certificates issued by the states. The Bureau of

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Animal Industry representatives will send this report to all state regulatory officials who desire the information. To require a duplicate report giving the same information simply burdens the industry without just cause or excuse.

4. Rules such as in Wisconsin which require buyers of feeder cattle to obtain a permit in order to get a permit should be changed. In certain states the buyer is required first to get a permit from a county official in order to obtain one from the state veterinarian. This is burdensome and serves but to irritate the stockmen. Investigation of the prevalence of animal disease in given areas within states shows that there is apparently less of tuberculosis and Bang's disease on the whole in those particular areas in states where a large number of imported cattle are fed for market than in other areas. Therefore, the refusal of such states as Kentucky, Iowa, Minnesota, and Oklahoma to accept federally certified accredited range cows of the beef breeds for feeding purposes, unless such cows pass all tests required of dairy and breeding cattle, is unwise and such restriction should be eliminated.

5. The rules in relation to blood testing for Bang's disease should be standardized as among all the states in the application of their requirements for importation of cattle by requiring that standard antigen be used and that blood taken by federally or state accredited veterinarians be tested in accepted laboratories, that the period within which the test shall be made prior to shipment and the age and sex of the live stock to which it must be applied be the same as to all states, and that the rule as to the dilution in which the negative reaction must appear be uniform in all states as to imported live stock.

6. No state regulation should be put into effect which is not susceptible of actual and thorough enforcement as to all methods and modes of transportation and to all live stock whatever may be the origin and ownership of the shipment. It is most unfair that railroad carriers and federally inspected stock yards which advise state authorities in advance of incoming shipments so that those officials may have ample opportunity to take necessary measures should meet competition of truckers who do interstate hauling and feed yards which do not report shipments and in respect of which the enforcement of restrictions cannot be practical or effective. There are instances now wherein state officials will regularly issue permits for shipment in apparent violation of their own regulations. This action destroys the confidence of those who have to comply with the regulations. It should be discontinued and the regulations in question either abolished or enforced.

Many of the state restrictions which, by reason of non-uniformity with those of the Bureau of Animal Industry or other states or because of their drastic character, meet the greatest objection are born of a sincere attempt to force developments too rapidly and in advance of the settled and accepted scientific knowledge of the subject matter. They ignore the great advantage which results from freedom of interstate movement of live stock—an advantage to the consumer, producer, breeder, and feeder.

FOREIGN

ENGLISH LIVE STOCK LETTER

BY J. RAYMOND

CHRISTMAS BEEF PRICES, AS REFLECTED in the sales at the Smithfield Show, show an improvement upon last year's values. The champion, an Aberdeen-Angus heifer that also won the Norwich championship for Lady Robinson, sold for \$825, representing \$58 per live cwt. Top price for Devons was \$290, or \$24 per live cwt., paid for the King's first-prize steer. The first-prize Hereford heifer made \$165, or \$15 per live cwt., and Shorthorns sold to \$170, or \$15.50 per live cwt. Top price for Red Polls was \$190, or \$14.65 per live cwt.; a Galloway made \$330, or \$23 per cwt., and an Angus-Shorthorn second cross fetched \$200, or \$20 per live cwt. Cattle scaling no more than 10 cwt. met with the keenest demand.

For pigs, the highest price was \$110, paid for the champion single pig, a Large White, from the herd of the late Lord Daresbury, the champion pair of this breed fetching \$80 per head. Middle Whites made to \$42 per head, Large Blacks to \$50, Berkshires to \$40, Wessex Saddlebacks and crossbreds to \$44, Tamworths to \$37.50, and Welsh to \$45 per head under the hammer.

Although a better sale than had been expected was realized for sheep, the prices generally were not remarkably high considering the quality on offer. Top price was shared by Stuart Paul's winning Suffolks and H. A. Benyon's champion Hampshire Downs. They made \$22.50 per head. Oxford Downs sold to \$22.50, Southdowns to \$19.25, Kents to \$18, Shropshires to \$21.25, Dorset Downs to \$20, Dorset Horns to \$21.50, Cheviots to \$25.50, and Down crossbreds to \$25 per head.

Effect of Subsidy

The general quality of the beef cattle being sold in all parts of the country for the Christmas market is well above the standard of recent years, and this can be attributed to the encouragement offered by the beef cattle subsidy and in particular to the extra bonus granted for the production of "quality" beasts. It is remarkable that the subsidy scheme should be carried out with any degree of efficiency when it is remembered that there are 800 live-weight centers and a large number of dead-weight stations involving the certification for the subsidy of well over 1,500,000 beef cattle per year. The scheme can only be operated by the exercise of common sense, and the Live Stock Commission is exercising this quality to a degree not usually associated with an official department. The commission adopts a policy of firmness but is not unreasonably strict, and the

graders work so well that it is only over minor matters that occasional disputes arise for the commission to settle. Another remarkable aspect of the operation of the subsidy is that over a period of a year there have only been three cases of attempted fraud.

The "quality" subsidy has only been operating for about twelve months, but its good effect upon feeding methods is emphasized by the fact that at this time last year only about 38 per cent of the cattle submitted for grading qualified for the higher subsidy. This year, the figure has risen to 64 per cent. The Scrub Bull Act, also, had led the beef industry back to the use of the correct type of beef bull.

Reports from all parts of England indicate that prices of fat cattle are firmer, the best types averaging \$10 per live cwt. A better trade is also being experienced in Scotland, with prices up by \$5 per head, first-quality beasts making around \$11 per cwt. Store cattle are in keen request. Fat-cattle values in Wales have not yet followed the upward trend reported in other centers, and very few beasts are touching the \$10 per cwt. mark. On the other hand, stores are dearer and buyers are active. Despite increased supplies, fat cattle in Ireland are meeting an improved demand and making more money, with good quality stores selling at \$9.50 per live cwt.

Sheep Prices Hardening

Prices of all types of fat sheep are hardening in England, where fat lambs are averaging 21 cents per pound, few store sheep being on offer. A rise of about \$1 per head is a feature of the fat-sheep and lamb trade in Scotland, and more money is being made for stores at most centers. Fat sheep and lambs are clearing at firm to higher rates in Wales, and an improved demand for stores is experienced. In Ireland an upward trend in values has been well maintained, prices in many instances having risen by \$1.20 per head.

Good supplies of fat pigs are meeting with a sharp trade in the English markets, and the average prices are higher to about \$3.75 and \$3.15 per score pound for porkers and baconers, respectively, stores being somewhat easier to buy. Fat pigs are meeting with a good inquiry in the Scottish markets, while stores are in brisker demand. Reports from Wales state that porkers are selling in the buyers' favor, but baconers tend to be dearer, while the market for pigs of all descriptions in Ireland is brighter.

The Pigs Marketing Scheme

Against general expectations, pig producers in all parts of the country have made an encouraging response to the new contract under the Pigs Marketing

Scheme. Nearly 1,500,000 pigs have been offered under contract. It is understood that 77 per cent of the pigs have been offered to nominated curers via the Pigs Marketing Board, 13 per cent as "open" offers, 2 per cent producer-curers, and 8 per cent on group contracts.

This is regarded as guaranteeing near enough equitable distribution of the contract pigs that will be available, and the producers are satisfied that they will not be put to much inconvenience in supplying the factories. It also appears as if the small unregistered curers as a body will receive fair treatment since there will remain about 350,000 pigs for them.

LIVE STOCK INTERESTS IN AUSTRALIA

BY A. C. MILLS

SURVEYS ON BEHALF OF THE Queensland government reveal an alarming diminution in the flow of artesian bores throughout the interior of the continent. Owing to the relative absence of rivers and lakes, central and west Queensland, and a good deal of west New South Wales and adjoining territory in South Australia, depend to a large extent on artesian bores for stock water, and the fact that the measured flow since 1914, despite an increase in the number of bores, has decreased considerably is disturbing. The records show that in Queensland alone in 1914 there were 1,160 deep bores, yielding 360,000,000 gallons of water a day, whereas in 1938 the number had increased to 1,808 the flow decreased to 278,000,000 gallons. It has been stated positively that the decline is not traceable to inferior or worn-out casings or to any local causes. It is definitely and unmistakably a decline in the underground supply.

That there has been and still is culpable waste of artesian water is apparent to even the most casual observer. A former officer of the Queensland Water Supply and Irrigation Department, who should know what he is talking about, says that only 3.6 per cent of the flow is used by stock and 96.4 per cent is lost by seepage or evaporation. He suggests that bore flows should be regulated to meet actual requirements and the water distributed by piping instead of by open drains as at present. To regulate the flow would admittedly be difficult, owing to the pressure behind it. There will always be a danger of the water forcing its way to the surface around the outside of the bore casing and so creating larger escape vents than those now provided by the pipes let down to the source of supply. Distribution by piping would undoubtedly help to control the flow and save a good deal of waste, but unfortunately there are few landholders in the artesian belt who can afford to do much in that direction.

The matter is considered of sufficient importance for the Queensland State Premier to approach the federal government and the governments of New South Wales and South Australia suggesting an intensive investigation by competent scientists to ascertain the degree of pastoral production that is dependent on artesian water, its influence upon the national revenue, the relationship, if any, between diminishing water supplies and recurring droughts and incidentally erosion, and the measures that ought to be taken to try to replenish supplies and insure adequate supplies for future requirements.

Erosion a Problem

Reference was made in the preceding paragraph to erosion. This is becoming a major problem in Australia, to the importance of which governments are just being roused. I write "roused" intentionally, because as yet they do not seem to have awakened sufficiently to take active steps to control the evil. Geologically Australia is a very old land and was immensely eroded before the advent of the white man. Since settlement there has been a great acceleration in soil movement, due to introduced pastoral and agricultural practices. Wind erosion, rather than water erosion, is the chief trouble.

The one body that has got down to the fundamentals of the problem is the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research. It for some time has had scientists working and observing soil drift in the dry inland and has published some remarkably interesting data on causes and effects, so that when governments are ready to take action they need not move in the dark.

Paradoxical though it may sound, the

main casual factor of wind erosion on the light inland soils in recent years has been pastoral improvements; that is to say, provision of water supplies and the erection of fences. The bringing of permanent water to that country of a small annual rainfall and frequent droughts has enabled graziers to hold stock on it right up to and beyond the regenerative limit of native pastures and brushes. The result is that over large areas, and especially in the neighborhood of waters, the vegetative cover has been destroyed, which, coupled with the pulverizing effect of the movements of stock to and from the drinking places, has opened the way to soil drift.

The hope of checking the evil appears to lie in recasting land laws and scrapping some cherished ideas and practices. It is work for a carefully chosen, experienced group of men, charged with full responsibility for drafting a far-sighted policy. It remains to be seen how soon governments will commission such a body.

Slaughterings Down

Cattle slaughterings for the beef export trade are now confined to small tallies at two central Queensland packing plants and to not much heavier killings at two on the Brisbane River (South Queensland). All the northern meat works have closed for the summer. Export grade cattle purchases in the Cannon Hill, Brisbane, yards have lately cost \$7.70 to \$7.90 for 100 pounds for chiller steers, \$7 to \$7.45 for light freezers, and from \$6 to \$6.70 a hundred for heavy grades and seconds. The local trade is buying on much the same basis.

The strong demand for northern beef for the local trade in the southern capitals, which was an outstanding feature

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of the cattle market during the past winter and early spring, has eased materially, though a moderate quantity is still being shipped to Sydney and Melbourne from Brisbane. The north and central divisions of New South Wales have had useful rains, and given normal weather from now on should soon be able to fill the state's beef requirements. At the moment, best light bullocks are selling in the Sydney yards on the basis of \$9.10 to \$10.10 per hundred pounds, with medium to heavy grades ranging from \$8.40 to \$8.90. A considerable area of Victoria is still very dry, but fair supplies of cattle are coming in from

the more favored districts. These are realizing \$9.60 to \$10.10 for top lines, with medium grades selling to \$9.35 and averaging about \$9.10 a hundred pounds.

No outstanding prices were realized for stud bulls at the sales held in connection with the Melbourne Royal Show at the end of September. The highest bid at auction was \$840 paid for a young Hereford (sire named Gold Hill Ransom). Another Hereford, Gold Hill Magnet, realized \$787.50. Shorthorns sold to \$630, which price was offered for a thirteen-month-old roan bull calf. Adverse seasonal conditions limited the inquiry; for, with a drought threatening,

nobody was prepared to launch out big.

Good all-round values ruled at the New Zealand spring sales of Aberdeen-Angus breed bulls in October. F. Armstrong, a leading North Island breeder, sold twelve yearlings at an average of \$362, with a top price of \$1,575 for Jother of Akitio. His fifty-nine two-year-olds averaged \$257, the top being \$682.50, paid for Inculcate of Akitio. At the New Zealand Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Breeders' Association joint sale, eighty-six bulls averaged \$231, the best individual prize being \$906 for Thorb of Waiterenui, the 1937 New Zealand royal champion.

P. S.—Just after the above had been typed, a report was received of the dispersal sale on November 16 of the Milton Park Shorthorn Stud in New South Wales. Anthony Hordern, the owner, has been one of the most consistent Australian importers of American Polled Shorthorns. Thirty-three polled breeding cows averaged \$535, and five polled bulls, \$687.50. Top price for cows, \$1,680, was paid for the imported Silver Rose. Cumberland Bess (imp.) realized \$1,102.50, and a daughter of hers, born at Milton Park, \$1,050. Other imported cows sold as follows: Missie of Oakwood 2nd, \$735; Roan Beauty 5th, \$708.75; Lavender Emblem, \$1,312.50; Matchless Joy, \$1,050; Rosewood Belle, \$945; Cumberland Lily 3rd, \$446.25. Top price for polled bulls was \$1,050, paid for the imported Lancaster Coronet.

FROM FOREIGN FIELDS

FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE HAD spread by November 29 to 1,405 communities in Yugoslavia. Loss of animals has been heavy, and many stock breeders have lost interest in the industry because of uncertain market conditions. Restrictions have been imposed by some countries against import of live stock from infected areas. . . . The Agricultural Research Council of England has reported discovery of natural infection with foot-and-mouth disease in a hedgehog. It has been found that this animal is very susceptible to the disease and can spread it not only by contact but through its breath to other hedgehogs and to cattle. . . . "As regards the Natal outbreak," says the South African correspondent for *Pastoral Review* (Melbourne), "the authorities, after some hesitation, decided on slaughtering every head of small stock except pigs as the quickest and cheapest way of dealing with the position"—foot-and-mouth disease. The disease in Natal was reported completely wiped out. . . . According to the Veterinary Bureau of the Royal Medical Board of Sweden, no less than 150 farms had been infected with foot-and-mouth disease up to October 18. The number of animals slaughtered totaled on that date 7,039 cattle and 4,710 swine. . . . Sweden, as part of her

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attempt to protect her live stock against foot-and-mouth disease recently decreed that travelers arriving in Sweden from Denmark must wash their hands and other uncovered parts of their bodies in chloramine solution, and pass over a carpet saturated with the same fluid.... Norway, Finland, Latvia, and Lithuania have recently had outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease.

Revised 1938 production estimate of wheat in thirty-six Northern Hemisphere countries is 3,793,178,000 bushels, which compares with the 1937 total of 3,295,103,000 bushels. In the Southern Hemisphere indications point to a marked increase in Argentine production over that of the past season, when the crop was below average. Dry weather has reduced prospects in Australia, but the total Southern Hemisphere crop probably will be larger than that of 1937-38.

Recent developments in foreign agricultural policies include a new law in Argentina providing for the liquidation and refinancing of private mortgage debts, the law to displace a mortgage moratorium law in effect since 1933; governmental fixing of prices of articles of necessity in Mexico under a decree authorizing the Mexican Ministry of National Economy to fix the minimum prices at which specified products may be sold to consumers; legislation in Chile providing for \$1,200,000 loan to small farmers for a seven-year period at 5 per cent.

In order to facilitate exportation of a wheat surplus, the government of Uruguay established an export subsidy on September 30 for both wheat and flour. The main objective is to equalize wheat prices in Uruguayan and world markets. ... On November 14 the Argentine government established the price of wheat at 7 pesos and of flaxseed at 13 pesos per 100 kilos (60 cents and \$1.04 per bushel, respectively).

More than 1,000,000 pounds of buffalo meat will be provided this year by slaughter of 2,000 surplus animals from Canada's buffalo herds in Buffalo National Park and Elk Island National Park, in Alberta. Once in danger of extinction, the buffalo, as a result of their conservation by the Canadian government, have so increased in numbers that periodic slaughters are necessary.

Margarine and shortening furnish the chief outlet for whale oil in Europe, according to Charles E. Lund, fats and oils specialist of the Commerce Department's Foodstuffs Division. In the United States use of whale oil is confined chiefly to the soap industry. The current whaling season in the Antarctic will probably establish a new record for the catch, believes Mr. Lund.

ROUND THE RANGE

WESTERN LIVE STOCK AND RANGE REPORT

WESTERN RANGES ARE IN good condition except in the southern Great Plains region and Arizona, where near-drought conditions prevail. Cattle and sheep are generally in good condition, although rather low temperatures and snow in November caused shrinkage in some areas. Supplemental feeds are plentiful in practically all states. All in all, conditions are favorable for the western live-stock industry, reports the Denver regional live-stock office of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Condition of ranges on December 1 was 79 per cent, compared with 81 a month earlier, and the 1928-37 December average of 76.

Summary by states:

Arizona.—Droughty the past thirty days; grass dry, browse hardening, and water getting low over ranges; cattle held up remarkably well but latter November showed shrink; movement for period unusually heavy; little feed on winter lambing grounds; many bands placed on farm pastures where heavy crop early lambs in evidence.

California.—New pasturage in lower areas retarded by light rainfall and low temperatures; new feed started early in central and northern districts but greatly hindered by adverse conditions; old pasturage, hay, grain, and roughage adequate, but range and field quality declining; rains improved winter feed prospects for lower elevations; cattle and sheep above average; nominal shrinkages in November; cattle in-shipments light in recent months; early lambing well started but new green feed needed at lower elevations.

Colorado.—Conditions generally above average; grazing closed in mountainous sections where cattle cared for on winter feed grounds; ample feed in nearly all sections; range stock run about over; good prices and demand reported; dry-lot lamb and cattle fattening operations will be below last year; industry on fairly satisfactory basis.

Idaho.—Range feed quality lowered in some sections by continued November cold and wetness but ranges better than average; cattle and sheep declined slightly; feed ample.

Kansas (western).—Range and wheat pasture declined in dry November; top soil very dry; considerable stock may be marketed or go to better pastures shortly; cattle condition unchanged; stocker and feeder cattle demand steady; tendency to hold cows and heifers; good supply rough feeds on farms.

Montana.—Above normal November precipitation improved ranges but interfered with grazing; ranges, cattle, and sheep above average; general feed situation and water supplies best in recent years; marketings considerably below 1937; small shipments reflect retention

of cows, heifers, ewe lambs for restocking.

Nebraska.—High range conditions maintained; very little rain or snow since September 15; hay and forage plentiful; cattle and calves highly satisfactory; prices good; financial situation improved; some restocking; weather favorable so far.

Nevada.—Ranges good to excellent but temperatures below normal most of November; recent moisture made grazing possible over most winter range; cattle good but declined slightly due to cold; sheep excellent.

New Mexico.—Ranges generally dry but furnishing good feed; most sections need moisture badly; November open for grazing; cattle and sheep entering winter in excellent condition; ample feed.

North Dakota.—Feed ample except in southeastern and south-central areas; stock water improved except in eastern third of state where serious shortage; live stock better than average; central and western areas holding for restocking.

Oklahoma.—Cattle and range about same as month ago and slightly above average; winter wheat very poor due to dry weather and affords little pasturage; cattle should winter in fair condition; stock water short in some localities; state urgently needs rain.

Oregon.—Good growth new grass by middle November; abundant dry grass; surplus hay and grain in range areas at low prices; holding more cattle and ewe lambs than last year; feeder cattle and lambs in brisk demand; grass-fat cattle movement practically completed.

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**Wyoming Hereford Ranch
CHEYENNE**

South Dakota (western).—Ranges and stock improved by mild fall and utilizing late range and field feed; movement to market about completed; ample roughage to winter; situation generally favorable.

Texas.—Moisture unfavorable; entire state needs rain; grain pastures furnishing grazing in few northwest counties but without early December moisture removal will be necessary; dry range feeds available in most sections but green feeds scarce; supplemental feed crops plentiful in producing areas; winter losses not expected heavy.

Utah.—Winter ranges mostly good; well developed feed and plenty stock water available; some shrinkage from below normal temperatures but stock generally good; outlook good.

Washington.—Very little stock on lower ranges; feed ample to surplus; ranges exceptionally good; more than usual cattle and ewe lambs held over.

Wyoming.—Cattle and sheep in good condition; some shrink from cold and snow; death losses very light; range feed good except in northeast; stored feed generally ample; stock water ample except in northeastern counties.

PINE-TREL 1065 DEHYDRATED PINE TAR OIL

BLOW-FLY REPELLENT; ANIMAL WOUND DRESSING
Dehorning, Docking, Castrating, Wire Cuts,
Wool Maggots, Grub in Head, Ear Salve, Snotty
Nose. Soothing, Acid Free, Non-poisonous.

The Perfect Wound Dressing
SOLD UNDER POSITIVE MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE
SEE YOUR DEALER OR WRITE
AMERICAN TURPENTINE & TAR CO., New Orleans, La.

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In ½, 1, 1½, and 2-pound sizes
70c per pair delivered to you, either size
Canada postage extra. Order from

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RANCHES, large or small, for sale, exchange, or lease, in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Wyoming, Montana, California, Canada, Central and South America, Africa, and islands of the sea. J. D. FREEMAN, Gunter Building, San Antonio, Texas.

FOR SALE OR LEASE—31,000 acres privately owned range land. Abundance of water. One thousand acres cultivated lands. Winter and summer range for 5,000 head of cattle. Address: Preston Nutter Corporation, 105 E. So. Temple St., Salt Lake City, Utah.

HARDY re-cleaned Alfalfa seed, \$9.60; Grimm Alfalfa, \$10.50; White Sweet Clover, \$3.50; Red Clover, \$6.90. All 60-pound bushel, Track, Concordia. Return seed if not satisfied. Geo. Bowman, Concordia, Kansas.

CATTLE WANTED
Iowa corn growers want to buy stocker cattle. How many and what kind have you for sale? Fred Chandler, Chariton, Iowa.

TOP QUALITY western and crested wheat-grass seed. Sam Bober, Newell, South Dakota.

BULLETINS IN BRIEF

INCOME FROM FARM PRODUCTS
Sold this year and from government payments is expected to total about \$7,625,000,000. This is a decline of 11 per cent from the \$8,600,000,000 received by farmers in 1937, and is accounted for by an estimated drop of 20 per cent in receipts from crops and of 8 per cent in receipts from sales of live stock and live-stock products. Government payments have been larger this year. The 1938 income also compares with \$7,944,000,000 received in 1936 and with the low of \$4,328,000,000 in 1932.

Time magazine is taken to task by *The Cattleman* for carrying in a recent issue an item about Congressman R. M. Kleberg, of Texas, that said he "does his bit against oleomargarine and other bugbears of the range." *The Cattleman* explained to *Time*: Both Congressman Kleberg and oleomargarine (that made of domestic products) are friends of the range. Congressman Kleberg has worked for a law to lessen the tax against overtaxed oleomargarine and provide for its labeling as to domestic ingredients. Oleomargarine does its bit for the industry by providing a market for (in 1937) 12,277,000 pounds of oleo oil and 3,375,000 pounds of stearine.

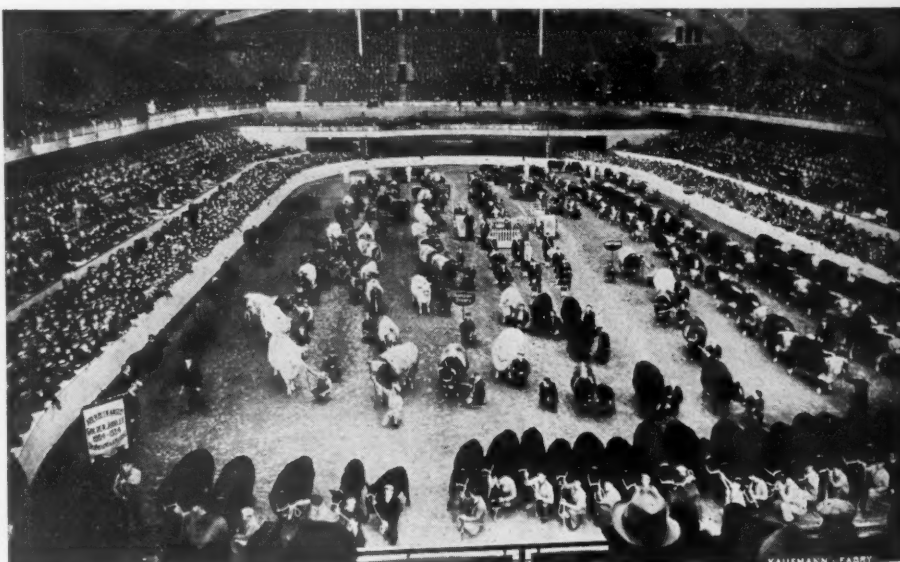
Discovery of sleeping sickness among pigeons is announced in *Science* by Leroy D. Fothergill and John H. Dingle of Harvard medical school, the same illness having been discovered in ring-necked pheasants a few weeks previously. . . . Horse sleeping sickness has been reported breaking out among horses in

northern South America, according to an item in the same publication. . . . Dr. H. W. Schoening, of the Bureau of Animal Industry, reported at the meeting of the Horse and Mule Association of America the first part of December that the dread sleeping sickness was at last under control.

The Wyoming Hereford Ranch and its herd are to be endowed by the owner, Henry T. Crowell, eighty-three, Chicago capitalist, for a term of twenty-five years following his death, changing the WHR's status of a profit-making institution to one to be operated for the advancement of the Hereford breed and the benefit of charitable organizations. Announcement of the endowment was made by Edward T. Lazear, attorney at Cheyenne. Robert W. Lazear will continue as manager of the WHR.

Only half as much leather was imported during the first nine months of this year as during the similar period last year. Commerce Department figures show value for 1938 as \$5,196,032 and for 1937 as \$10,001,226. Exports amounted, respectively, to \$9,088,710 and \$13,708,938. . . . According to the Census of Manufacturers for 1937, the total value of saddlery and harness production amounted to \$13,416,963. Only 139 establishments were engaged in the production of harness during 1937 compared with 157 in 1935.

Federal quarantine will be withdrawn December 1, 1938, from 9,552 square miles of previous tick area in Florida, Texas, and Puerto Rico.



At the show ring of the thirty-ninth International Live Stock Exposition in Chicago, top price of \$3.35 a pound was paid for the grand champion steer, \$1 a pound more than for last year's champion. Irene Brown, of Aledo, Illinois, fourteen-year-old 4-H Club member, exhibited the champion, an Aberdeen-Angus weighing 1,130 pounds. Reserve grand champion steer, an Angus fed by the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College, sold for 75 cents a pound, scaling 1,330 pounds.

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

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